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UN Study Shows CIS Republics Dumping Nuclear Waste

AU1510154093 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 14 Oct 93 p 1

[Hannes Gamillschegg report: "USSR Successor States Simply Dump Nuclear Waste Into Nature"]

[Text] Copenhagen, 13 October—The inadequate security standards of nuclear power plants is not the only threat to the successor states of the Soviet Union and its neighbors. They are also threatened by radioactive contamination as a result of the shockingly thoughtless way of dealing with nuclear waste. For cost reasons, material that was exposed to radiation is not disposed of anymore, but is simply dumped into nature. This is shown in a UN Development Program (UNDP) study, the results of which have now been presented by Director Reinhardt Helmke in Copenhagen.

Helmke criticized the fact that the quantity of nuclear waste that was delivered to the responsible disposal facilities is drastically decreasing. "In most countries, the alarming decline is so striking that it cannot be explained by a production decrease." For instance, Ukrainian nuclear physicist Nikolay Steynberg told the UNDP that in the last one-and-a-half years, no liquid nuclear waste had been disposed of in his country. It was cheaper to dump the waste into the rivers.

In Latvia, the quantity of radioactive waste delivered by hospitals and industry had decreased to 25 percent, said Helmke. The rest presumably ended up in nature where radioactivity was slowly seeping away into the ground water. Factories in Siberia were dumping large quantities of radioactive waste into the rivers and the Caspian Sea, where recent measurements showed a "hugely increased radioactivity," said Helmke. The UNDP director warned that radioactive substances were also dumped into the Barents Sea and Kara Sea in the North and presumably also into the Baltic Sea. He added: "The information that we have does not include military facilities that continue to be shrouded in secrecy."

The study also points out the widespread use of radioactive materials in sectors in which the West does not use nuclear power. In agriculture, research facilities, and factories, small nuclear reactors ensure the electricity supply. Even the lighthouses along the Baltic coasts are operated with nuclear power. In Moldova, there are 11,000 small nuclear power plants, in Ukraine 100,000. In addition, highly radioactive materials are used in industrial facilities, hospitals, and medical research to a much larger extent than in the West. Control is inadequate. In Lithuania, a container with highly radioactive beryllium isotopes was found by accident in the basement of a bank recently. It had been deposited there absolutely unprotected as collateral against a loan.

In the Lithuanian nuclear power plant at Ignalina, the two nuclear waste disposal facilities are full, it says in the report. No one knows what should be done with the 80 fuel rods that the plant produces every year, and with the other nuclear waste. A total of 80 percent of Lithuania's electricity is supplied by Ignalina. In Murmansk, nuclear submarines rot away with their reactors on board. In Armenia, the authorities have closed down the only nuclear power plant because it is located in a seismic area. But the radioactive material was not removed from the plant. After months without electricity, with a disastrous shortage of fuel, and without a single functioning hospital, one is now examining the question whether it could be put into operation again, said Reinhardt Helmke: "Nobody knows how people are to survive the winter."

The UNDP's answer to these gigantic problems are a modest $50 million, with which the setting up of control bodies—of the 15 CIS republics, only Russia and Ukraine have nuclear protection authorities—the training of experts, and training programs for those working with dangerous substances are to be financed. In many cases, however, concern about the dangers is greater than the will to do something about them, said Helmke, who added that there are still no firm pledges from UN member states for the $50 million.

Talks Continue in Geneva on Georgia

LD1810102293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva October 18 TASS—Ways of the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict are being dicusssed today at two-day consultations between a representative of the U.N. secretary-general in Georgia Eduard Brunner and a plenipotentiary representative of Georgia and chairman of the committee for human rights and interethnic relations Aleksandr Kavsadze. The talks, which began on Sunday [17 October], are being held behind closed doors.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Kavsadze said that during the meeting he would outline a programme of the peaceful settlement of the crisis. Depending on the results of the discussion Georgia will determine its future steps, including the problem on possible restoration of direct talks with the Abkhazian side. Kavsadze described developments in Abkhazia over the past week "as fascism and even more than fascism."

In the opinion of political observers, the arrival of the Georgian representative in Geneva indicates that Georgia is seeking to restore the process of political settlement, impeded by the breach of the Sochi agreement and worsening of the situation in the conflict zone.

According to the results of a meeting between Eduard Brunner and a representative from Abkhazia, Abkhazia's Prosecutor General Anri Dzhergenia, held in Geneva on October 6-7, similar intentions have been voiced in Abkhazia as well. Upon completion of the meeting Dzhergenia said that the Abkhazian side puts no obstacles to direct talks with Georgia.

'Willingness To Talk' Noted

AU1810195193 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Geneva, Oct 18 (AFP)—A peace conference grouping representatives of Georgia and its breakaway region of Abkhazia, as well as Russia, could take place "within weeks," United Nations mediator Edouard Brunner said here Monday [18 October].

"There is a willingness on both sides to engage in dialogue. Conditions have been set but there is a willingness to talk," Brunner said after meeting Alexander Kavsadze, representing Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze.

Brunner had already met earlier this month representatives of Abkhazia, whose forces have assumed almost total control of the western Georgian region.

He said he would undertake "shuttle diplomacy" to inform Abkhazian leaders of Georgian conditions, and would also have to obtain the consent of Moscow to attend a conference.

He said that in line with a Georgian demand for an impartial report on human rights violations in the recent fighting, members of the UN Human Rights Commission would leave for Tbilisi and Sukhumi, Abkhazia's main city, Wednesday.

Kavsadze accused the Abkhazians Monday of carrying out "ethnic cleansing" after capturing Sukhumi at the end of September, but Brunner said a human rights report should not be an obstacle to direct talks.

Georgia was also demanding retention of sovereignty, Kavsadze said, but Brunner noted that the Abkhazians "had not taken the option of independence." [passage omitted]

Brunner has stressed his mandate only covered the situation in Abkhazia and not the conflict between Gamsakhurdia and Shevardnadze, but he said Monday that "the two are linked."

"The settlement of the conflict with Abkhazia could lead to the settlement of that with the Gamsakhurdia forces," he said.

Brunner has focused on the humanitarian dimension of the Abkhazia conflict, saying about 200,000 people had fled Sukhumi when it fell to the rebels and about 80,000 had taken refuge in high mountain areas.

Agreements Reached in Geneva on START Treaty Preparations

LD1610122193 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Geneva, 14 October—Representatives from the United States, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine have finished preparing seven agreements and joint statements, which condition preparations for the efficient realization of the START Treaty after it comes into force. These documents were elaborated during the sixth session of the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission (SUIK) [Spilna Uzhodzhuvalna ta Inspektsiyna Komisiya].

Having been set up in accordance with the treaty between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on reducing and limiting strategic offensive weapons, the SUIK bears the responsibility for resolving issues concerning the sides fulfillment of their obligations.

Secretary Christopher To Visit CIS, East Europe

PM1510140193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report from the "From Our News Bureau" column: "U.S. Secretary of State Christopher Plans 'Inspection Tour'"]

[Text] The trip by Warren Christopher, head of the U.S. foreign policy department, around the former republics of the Soviet Union and the states of East Europe is scheduled for 20-27 October, an official spokesman of the Department of State has reported. Christopher intends to visit Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, Almaty, and probably Riga, Prague, and Sofia too.

Speaking about the objectives of the visit, the State Department spokesman stated that the United States has made considerable investment in the development of the economic and political liberalization of those states and the secretary of state now plans to see what the return on those investments is like and what results U.S. support is producing.

U.S. Ambassador Sends Letter of Thanks to Filatov

PM1810121593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Own Information report: "Gratitude of U.S. Ambassador"]

[Text] A letter addressed to Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration, has arrived from the U.S. Embassy. "In connection with the fact that life in the capital is returning to normal," U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering writes," I would like to sincerely thank you and your personnel for the attention which you paid to our embassy's concern about the security of U.S. citizens during the events which occurred in the past few days."

Ambassador Pickering notes that it was the second time that the Americans who live and work in the embassy had come into contact with extreme and gripping political events taking place in the area of the Russian "White House." Finding yourself in the middle of historical events naturally involves a certain amount of worry. "During the dramatic events of recent days," the letter to Sergey Filatov says, "you were always accessible and responsive to our concerns about the security of the embassy and its employees." On behalf of all American officials, he expressed his profound gratitude.

U.S. Debate on Triggering of Nuclear Strike Eyed

PM1810154593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Article for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Chukseyev: " 'Dr. Strangelove' Reincarnate? Debate Unfolds in the United States on the Possibility of Automatic Unleashing of Nuclear War"]

[Text] Washington—The debate, into which more and more representatives of the scientific world, retired military men and diplomats, and the U.S. mass media are now being drawn, at times revives the sixties of sad memory. The growth of the great powers' nuclear arsenals and the Cuban crisis at that time engendered feelings of fear and mutual suspicion, which frequently reached the scale of hysteria. At the time it found a brilliant reflection in the popular satirical movie hit "Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," in which the Soviet Union, in the spirit of the times, was accused of possessing a "doomsday machine"—in other words a system which inflicts an automatic nuclear strike. Naturally, against the United States.

Hollywood would have probably lacked the imagination to predict how the world would change in 30 years, and what cares and problems would come to the fore in it. Nevertheless, the ghost of "Dr. Strangelove" is again with us. It has been revived by Bruce Blair, a senior researcher at the Brookings Institution in Washington, who last week in THE NEW YORK TIMES revealed that in the seventies a system was developed by the "Soviet creators of Armageddon" for the automatic launch of several thousand atomic warheads in the event of the demise of the senior military officials controlling them.

"I doubt that the Soviet leaders would have done this, for fear that they could lose control of them (nuclear weapons—ITAR-TASS correspondent's note)," former national security aide to President Bush Air Force General Brent Scowcroft, retired, stated. And an official spokesman for the U.S. State Department expressed confidence that "nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union are under reliable control."

ASSOCIATED PRESS gives an unexpected and yet entirely understandable turn to this debate, asking the question: And does the United States have such a system? "The United States possesses missiles which can be launched if the president and other high-ranking leaders in Washington have been put out of action," the agency reports. "However, according to the testimony of specialists, this depends on people pushing buttons, and not on computers."

In the "Cold War" period Air Force Command had an air command center in the air 24 hours a day with a general on board who was able to give the order to inflict a retaliatory nuclear strike if the Washington leadership was put out of action. In the fifties and sixties V-2 bombers, according to the testimony of Scott Sagan of Stanford University, were fitted with a device which made it possible even in the event of the crew being disabled to ensure that bombs were dropped according to commands from the flight control center. It was called the "dead man's handle." AP also cites the words of "Greenpeace" expert William Arkin, who claims that at the present time there are around 350 servicemen who have been entrusted with the right to use nuclear weapons in extraordinary circumstances.

Nuclear Safety Official on Dumping in Sea of Japan

LD1810131993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] It has already been reported that a Russian warship discharged radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan on 17 October. We contacted Yuriy Vishnevskiy, chairman of the State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety. This is what he said about this event. I quote: There is the London Convention, which prohibits countries from dumping liquid radioactive waste into neighboring seas and oceans. Russia has signed this convention.

At the present time military sailors are following temporary instructions from the leadership of the navy, which, incidentally, has not been approved by either the Russian Ministry of Protection of the Environment and

Natural Resources or the State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety. The situation is simple and complex at the same time, Yuriy Vishnevskiy noted.

Today the navy has neither the conditions nor the technical means for reprocessing liquid radioactive waste and until sailors have the possibility to recover it, the dumping will continue.

I would remind you that this was the opinion of Yuriy Vishnevskiy, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety.

Russia Plans To Dump Again

LD1810150793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—Russia is going to dump nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan another time despite Japanese protests and believes the dumping will not increase the allowed radioactivity level.

Pumping of radioactive waste from a navy tanker to a "TNT-27" tanker was to start about 16:00 Moscow time Monday in the Russian Far East, a top official for the Russian Ministry of Environment told a briefing here.

The "TNT-27" will then dump the waste directly into the Sea of Japan. Deputy Minister Nikolay Rybalskiy called this a second stage of the operation authorized by the ministry.

According to Rybalskiy, 900 cubic metres of waste have already been dumped into the sea with a total radioactivity of about 2 curies. The deputy minister called it the best way out of the situation because two navy waste storage tankers had become overfilled and needed to be urgently emptied. A storm in the area might cause a catastrophe and nuclear contamination of the coastal waters.

About 800 cubic metres of waste with the total radioactivity of 1.1 curies will be dumped this time in the same area of the Sea of Japan.

The ministry experts believe that if pumped into the sea evenly the concentration of radioactive products will not exceed the maximum permissible level.

Rybalskiy said that his ministry had authorised the dumping, but added that such a practice should be terminated as soon as possible and nuclear waste should no longer be dumped into the sea.

Second Stage of Dumping Begins

LD1810151893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1412 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 18 Oct—Pumping of radioactive waste from a naval tanker to a TNT-27 tanker, from which it will subsequently be discharged into the Sea of Japan has gotten under way. This is the second stage of the operation started on 16 October with permission from the Russian Federation's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. This was announced at a briefing today by Nikolay Rybalskiy, deputy minister for the environment and natural resources. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment

LD1810221793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1615 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer] As we know, two days ago Russia dumped radioactive waste about 100 km south of Nakhodka. Today saw the continuation of this operation. This incident had a great impact around the world. Today representatives of the Ministry of Protection of the Environment, Foreign Ministry, and the Navy tried to explain to journalists the causes of this incident. Our correspondent Igor Ternyavskiy was present there, and here is his report.

[Ternyavskiy] The first and probably extremely important fact that was presented to journalists was that Russian structures involved in the operation had informed international bodies about the planned dumping. The second fact is that the Ministry of Protection of the Environment, although it had given permission to dump the waste, believes that this practice must be stopped as soon as possible. This is how Nikolay Rybalskiy, deputy minister, worded his answer:

[Begin recording] [Rybalskiy] Why did it happen? The point is that as early as June 1993 the Pacific Navy made a request to be given permission to dump. The thing is that they have two tankers, and one of them is in critical condition, while both tankers are overloaded. They asked for the problem to be solved at once. So, if the matter was not solved, there might have been an accident, and in such weather conditions, with winds and storms, there could have been a possibility that the aquatic environment could be polluted. There is a warf and a factory. There could have been a serious accident 50 km by water from Vladivostok, and both soil and water ecosystems could have been polluted. You know what happened on 16 October in the region number nine in the sea of Japan, about 100 km south of Nakhodka. The volume was of about two curie. The waste was dumped under the rotor, while being vigorously mixed, and in two to three days the radioactivity will return to background level. Why does this happen? The Pacific

Navy does not have any special installations for recycling this waste. [end recording]

[Ternyavskiy] Yevgeniy Romanov, first rank captain from the Navy also spoke to journalists. He explained the military point of view.

[Begin recording] [Romanov] We have carried out similar operations even before, in accordance with existing guidelines. This does not mean that we were engaging in some secret, so to speak. Relevant ministries and directorates were always informed about it, including the State Committee for [word indistinct], which was monitoring the situation on the spot, and as Nikolay Grigoryevich [Rybalskiy] has already said, in fact, because of the amount and the quality of the waste dumped, the situation will go back to normal in three to five days and does not represent any danger. This action will be repeated. We have the permission of the environment minister, which is valid until 15 November, and we plan to dump within this period of time another 800 cubic meters of liquid radioactive waste of low activity. [end recording]

[Ternyavskiy] So, what conclusion must we draw from this? Well, presumably, that we have been and will continue to dump radioactive waste, because Russia does not have any means to recycle elements that are so harmful to the environment. However, now these operations will be carried out in accordance with the rules accepted in the rest of the world. I would like to add one more thing: Answers given by Russian bureaucrats did not seem to convince Japanese journalists present at the briefing. This is only understandable, because the pollution is taking place in the immediate vicinity of the Japanese territory. Meanwhile, we have also heard reports that Tokyo has promised to help in the building of the necessary installations.

[Announcer] A few more details about it. Tokyo plans to discuss with the Russian side the possibility of helping the Russian side to build nuclear storage units, during the meeting of the joint Russian-Japanese working group on problems of assistance for nuclear disarmament scheduled for 10 to 11 November. Apart from that, as you know, Tokyo made an official protest to Moscow in connection with the dumping by the Navy of radioactive waste in the sea of Japan.

Radioactive Waste 'Harmless'

LD1810183693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The dumping of radioactive wastes by a Russian tanker into the Sea of Japan at the week-end will be environmentally harmless. The Deputy Minister for the Protection of Environment and Natural Resources of Russia Nikolay Rybalski told newsmen in Moscow on Monday that it had been the first discharge of contaminated liquid from a Russian tanker, a spill that had been made known to senior Russian and Japanese officials two weeks in advance. He disclosed that 900 cubic meters of strontium, cobalt, and caesium had been spilled into the sea.

He predicted that in about 2-3 days the level of pollution in water will return to normal and reported that Russian and Japanese experts would conduct an early survey of the polluted zone.

Rybalski noted that although the environmental protection department had authorized the discharge, it had stressed the need for ending such practice of dumping radioactive waste into the sea as soon as possible.

He also revealed that the Russian government had provided funds to build facilities to turn radioactive liquid into hard waste matter for its subsequent disposal.

Dumping Will Not Mar Ties With Tokyo

LD1810183093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] There could be a negative response from Tokyo to Russia's recent dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan, a senior Russian diplomat told Interfax in Moscow.

He said that although Japan may dislike this and send a note of protest to Moscow, the incident would hardly affect bilateral relations, which were given renewed impetus after President Yeltsin's recent visit to Tokyo.

The diplomat said there should be no complaints against Moscow based on international law because of the warning it gave to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the London Convention Secretariat two weeks before the operation.

Pacific Fleet Makes Preparations

LD1910113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0632 GMT 19 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok October 19 TASS—The Russian Pacific Fleet is getting ready for a new dumping of low radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan and a senior official of the fleet invited Japan to help Russia build storages to bury the waste underground.

"I understand the concern of our Japanese neighbours", head of the chemical service of the fleet Valeriy Damilyan told TASS on Tuesday, adding, however, that international agreements do not ban the dumping of low-toxic waste in sea.

"We have no facilities to process the waste and bury it in a safe place. If Japan helps us to construct the facilities to bury nuclear materials we shall be very grateful to it for that. Moreover, there is mutual interest in that", Damilyan said.

In the meantime a navy logistics ship "TNT-5" has docked to the "TNT-27" tanker in the big Kamen Bay to pump over 700 cubic metres of waste which is to be buried in the Sea of Japan.

The first dumping which took place on October 16 discharged 900 cubic metres of low radioactive waste in the same area which is approximately 100 kilometres south of the port of Nakhodka.

"The waste was dumped evenly and according to the rules of the International Atomic Energy Ministry [as received]. The concentration of radioactive waste does not exceed the allowed norms", Damilyan said.

He added that checks made in the dumping area show that the influence of radiation on human health is minimal.

International environmental organisations were informed in advance about the dumping.

Japan Protests Dumping

LD1910105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0759 GMT 19 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo October 19 TASS—Tokyo today announced its decision to protest officially against Russia dumping low activity wastes into the Sea of Japan. At the same time, the Japanese Foreign Ministry is doing its best not to whip up the passions as distinct from those who are attemping to make political capital on it.

Addressing a press conference here today, Secretary-General of the Japanese Cabinet of Ministers Masayoshi Takemura expressed deep regret in connection with the event. As earlier reported, an auxiliary vessel of the Russian Pacific navy dumped 900 tonnes of low active liquid wastes into the sea 100 kilometres to the south of Nakhodka on October 16. The operation, as confirmed by the Russian Ministry for the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, is expected to be repeated shortly.

According to Takemura, a corresponding protest would today be delivered to the Russian ambassador in Tokyo. At the same time, the Japanese ambassador in Moscow will notify the Russian Government about it. "Tokyo," Takemura stated, "also intends to urge Russia to stop dumping radioactive substances in the region."

At present, the dumping of low-toxic liquids of this kind is not banned by existing international agreements. Moreover, as officially confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, it was notified in advance about the recent dumping of wastes, the radioactivity of which is within the permissible limits.

Greenpeace Denies Ship Entered Russian Waters

LD1810163593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] A Greenpeace officer in Moscow, Sada Aksartova, denied reports that a ship belonging to the international environmental organization on Monday morning [18 October] entered Russian territorial waters in the Pacific, off Cape Povorotnyy near the port of Nakhodka. Aksartova said the ship was sailing in international waters at a distance of at least 17 nautical miles from the Russian border.

But a spokesman for Russia's Border Guard, citing Pacific Fleet reports, said again that the vessel had crossed the Russian border.

Prior to this, a Russian oil tanker discharged nuclear waste into the sea in that area. Official sources in Moscow said this was done with permission from Russia's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources in strict conformity with relevant regulations.

Coast Guards Threaten To Impound Ship

LD1810182293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] A ship belonging to the Greenpeace environmentalist group which approached Russia's nuclear waste disposal site in the Sea of Japan is reported to have been within a kilometer of its territorial waters on Monday [18 October]. Earlier, a spokesman for of the Russian Coast Guards referring to Pacific Navy reports said the ship had entered the country's territorial waters.

Latest reports sav the commander of a Russian patrol boat has given a radio warning to the ship's captain against violating Russia's waters or face his vessel being impounded and taken to Nakhodka port.

Contacts With Japanese Military Would Be 'Eagerly' Welcome

LD1810190793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] During Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan, no detailed plans were made for military contacts between the two nations, but this does not mean that there will be no such contacts, a senior source at the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax, commenting on the reported intention of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff and Japan's National Security Administration to exchange high-level visits.

"The Japanese military have long been taking interest in cooperating with their Russian counterparts. We would eagerly welcome such contacts," the source said.

He said the documents signed during the visit provided a proper basis for this. "It's obvious, for example, that the agreement on measures to prevent incidents in the sea outside the territorial waters (of Russia and Japan) and in the air space over them means that coordination is needed between the Russian and Japanese military, which will be the first step towards cooperation," the source said.

The Japanese share this view but want to discuss the problem with Russian experts. In an interview with Interfax a high-ranking member of Japan's embassy in Moscow deplored Russia's action and said that the Japanese authorities intended to discuss the problem of burying nuclear waste with Russian experts. A meeting between them might take place in the next two weeks, he said.

Interfax's interviewee said he hopes that the deplorable incident will not turn into common practise and that it will not hinder the development of bilateral relations. "These are two independent problems, and to intermingle them would be in neither Japan's nor Russia's interests," he said.

Relations With Japan 'Normal'

PM1810115193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Golts "Theme of the Week": "Visit to Japan as Mirror of Our Relations with the West"]

[Text] The most important result of certain political processes, unlike a race, for example, becomes obvious not when the leader breasts the finishing tape but when the last of the competitors crosses the finish line. It is no secret that Russia's most difficult partner among the industrially developed states has been Japan which, despite geography, is attached to the West. The unresolved territorial disputes and absence of a peace treaty after World War II are a burden of the past that is too heavy to bear. Thus Tokyo did not yield to the West's euphoria following the disappearance of Soviet Union, a state which was perceived there as the main threat to Western security, but now that relations with Japan too are moving to a normal track, even if they are not without their difficulties, it is becoming possible to speak about the end of one stage of mutual relations with the Western states and the beginning of another.

Especially since Tokyo retains a cautious, not to say skeptical attitude to what is going on in Russia to this day. That is why relations with Japan serve as a mirror of those difficult problems which Russia has with other industrially developed countries. From this viewpoint Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan is especially interesting.

Until recently a fairly superficial view of our foreign policy was widespread in Russian society—a state of affairs to which the authorities contributed. It was said that all we had to do was proclaim and prove our commitment to the West's guiding values—freedom, democracy, and the observance of human rights—and begin market reforms, and all differences of opinion with the Western countries would disappear of their own accord. What is more, they would all hurry to Russia's aid. I am not exaggerating at all. Let us recall, for example, the well-known "Window of Opportunity" program, which was founded entirely on the premise that the industrially developed states would suddenly and simultaneously hurl a certain proportion of their defense budget at the Russian reforms.

As we tried to put those values into practice, hopes gave way to resentment. Why is this? We did this and that but "they," having agreed to be partners, behaved in an unfriendly manner. Not only did they not lift the trade and customs barriers but sometimes piled up new ones too. They showed no desire to allow us a place in the markets for space technology and other high technologies. They were in no hurry to reward us for joining in with the sanctions against Iraq and Libya, and as in the case of Japan, they have not relinquished their territorial claims.

A child expects universal love simply for "being good," but on entering the adult world all children realize sooner or later that they have to be well behaved people for their own sakes above all, not for the sake of others. Yes, good conduct is a precondition for acceptance into the circle of decent people, but only a precondition. There must also be common interests. Furthermore, each member of that circle has his own views of life which the others do not necessarily like. The ability to defend those views, sternly if necessary, is also respected.

Having understood that fact, we began to grow up rapidly. It was not with an appeal to help Russia on the grounds that it had become "democratic" that Boris Yeltsin went to Tokyo but with concrete economic projects whose implementation would be beneficial to both sides. The 18 agreements that were signed, although not sensational, are valuable precisely because they orient the sides toward the solution of some routine, specific problems. It is also typical that, unlike past occasions, this visit did not carry with it any expectations of receiving major credits. It seems that we are beginning to understand that even the most beneficial offers of foreign investments will remain no more than offers if there is no stability in the country. Business and permanent Russian revolution are completely incompatible things, and every bullet fired at the International Trade Center on [Krasnaya] Presnya during the days of the October uprising, even if it did not kill anyone, will surely have destroyed quite a few potential mutually beneficial contracts.

Furthermore, it seems that Russia's difficulties are again becoming a concern for our partners. Despite a certain egoism they are beginning to realize how much world stability and consequently their own prosperity depend on the effectiveness of the Russian reforms. It is indicative that this realization has been registered by Japan, which has always closely linked the development of all relations with Russia with the solution on Japan's terms of the territorial problem. Now Tokyo understands that, despite the importance of this problem, there are other things even more important...

As for the dispute itself, Tokyo, without backing down from its position, has nevertheless come to the conculsion that direct pressure on Russia is ineffective. I hope that this will be understood by everyone who tries to deal like a stern grande dame with Moscow. After all, attempts at harsh diktat, whether they relate to the territorial problem or a demand for the "immediate" withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic, may have the opposite result to that desired.

Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan marked a new period in our mutual relations with the West—a period devoid of the charms of getting to know one another. A period when widely proclaimed statements to the effect that we are no longer enemies become pointless. The stage of the difficult and quiet work has begun in which a balance of mutual interests and the elimination of real contradictions are sought. In other words, a period of the establishment of normal mutual relations between normal states which are no longer in opposition to one another.

Interior Minister Yerin Arrives in India

LD1610084393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister Viktor Yerin has arrived in India today. This is the first official foreign visit made by the head of the Russian law enforcement department. In the course of the visit, questions concerning the fight against illegal drug trafficking and international terrorism will be examined along with other pressing matters.

Signs Cooperation Agreement

LD1810223993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1332 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview with Russian journalists after the signing of a cooperation agreement between Russian and Indian interior ministries, V. Yerin stressed it was a very important document which enables the two countries' interior ministries to coordinate their actions, to carry out an exchange of operative information, and to examine and tackle issues regarding joint measures of primarily operative and investigative nature. This will make it possible to tackle issues of personnel training both in India and Russia, the material and technical provision in fighting crime, and ensuring law and order. India, the Russian interior minister noted, is seriously concerned with problems of fighting organized crime, illegal trade of drugs, and terrorism. The main thing now is to fill the agreement with specific content and to implement all the practical mechanisms which would enable specific measures to be carried out, which are aimed at thwarting activities of criminal gangs and at cutting off channels for illegal shipments of drugs, V. Yerin stressed.

Meets Indian Prime Minister

LD1810171993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1455 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Baydashin]

[Text] New Delhi October 18 TASS—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao received visiting Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin here on Monday.

During the meeting held in a friendly atmosphere, the Indian premier voiced support for the efforts by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government, which are aimed at democratic changes in Russian society. Rao expressed satisfaction that Yeltsin controls the situation and that Russia started a new political process.

Yerin described in detail the situation in Russia. He stressed that normal democratic process is under way in the country, the initiative is fully in the hands of the president and the government and work is in progress to draft a new constitution.

Conditions are ripe for holding elections to a new Russian parliament on a truly democratic basis.

The sides stressed the need for strengthening interstate relations between India and Russia. In Rao's opinion, this strengthening is promoted by an agreement signed toda[illegible]e Interior Ministries of the two countries. It is aime[illegible] cooperation in controlling organised crime, illegal drug trafficking and terrorism.

Yerin stressed in an interview with Russian journalists that it was a very important document enabling the two ministries to concert their actions, to exchange vital information and to undertake joint measures, above all of investigative nature.

The agreement will help the two countries to improve training of personnel in India and Russia as well as material and technical facilities to control crime and to ensure law and order.

Premier Sends Condolences to South Korea on Ferry Disaster

LD1710123993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 17 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has sent a message of condolence to his South Korean counterpart, Hwang In-song, on the October 10 ferry disaster.

"People in Russia are in anguish over the news of the South Korean passenger ferry disaster involving loss of life," the message said. The prime minister asked his South Korean counterpart to convey deepfelt condolences to the relatives and next-of-kin of the dead.

The October 10 sinking of the South Korean Sohe ferry is reckoned the gravest disaster over the past 20 years. About 170 ferry passengers are believed to be dead or missing.

Premier Meets Otar Patsatsia, Discusses Georgian Crisis

LD1810121693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has met with Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia in the building of the Russian Government on Monday. The meeting was held behind closed doors.

During the meeting the sides discussed problems pertaining to the participation of Russia and the CIS in the settlement of the crisis in Georgia, ITAR-TASS learned from well-informed sources.

Holds 'Closed-Door Talks'

LD1810193593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdun held closed-door talks with Georgian counterpart Otar Patsatsia in Moscow Monday. Taking part in the talks from the Russian side were Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and Secretary of the Russian Security Council Oleg Lobov.

Unconfirmed reports say that the Georgian Prime Minister asked the Russian Government for urgent assistance for Tbilisi in the current difficult internal-political situation, including supplies of energy, food, armaments and military technology. He particularly stressed that the Tbilisi authorities are interested in unblocking transport communications recently seized by supporters of the Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsahurdia. The Georgian prime minister voiced hope that Moscow would appeal to the CIS partners to help Georgia in overcoming the economic crisis and settling the internal-political situation.

The Russia side, say the sources, promised to render Georgia all possible assistance in settling the situation in Georgia, excluding military intervention.

Against Using Troops in Georgia

LD1810221393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2120 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Yarushin]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 19 Oct—The main issue at the talks held in Moscow on Monday between Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, and Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, was the question of using the 10 billion [currency not specified] credit that was agreed on in the middle of September. "These funds will in the main go toward buying bread and fuel," an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told tonight by Valeryan Advadze, ambassador of the Republic of Georgia in Moscow.

He said that there had also been discussion at the talks on joint action by Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in stabilizing the situation in the region. [passage omitted]

The ambassador also noted that at the Moscow talks the Russian military had again "categorically opposed the use of units of the Russian Armed Forces in the combat operations that the government forces of Georgia are conducting against the Zviadists." [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze's Appeal 'Will Not Be Ignored'

LD1910104893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov has said that the recent statement by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze will not be ignored. As we know, Eduard Shevardnadze appealed to Russia and other neighboring countries for help in connection with the dangerous turn of events in the republic caused by the actions of supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia. In an interview for the INTERFAX agency, Boris Pastukhov said that the top political leadership of Russia will respond to the Georgian leader's appeal very soon. The deputy minister agreed that the development of events in Georgia is arousing misgivings in Russia. Boris Pastukhov, who took part in the 18 October meeting between Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, declined to give any details of the problems discussed, noting that the meeting was held behind closed doors. However, the deputy minister did indicate that one of the main topics at that meeting was the supply of food, and particularly bread, to Georgia.

Talks With Armenia Cover 'Wide Range of Issues'

LD1810132893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct—Russian-Armenian intergovernmental talks took place on Staraya Ploshchad [government buildings in Moscow] this afternoon. On the Russian side, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, and Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin were present; on the Armenian side, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan attended.

After the negotiations, which lasted two hours, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, said in reply to questions by an ITAR- TASS correspondent that the meeting addressed a wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation between Russia and Armenia, including "practical steps to unite monetary systems," questions of fuel supplies and of transport. The unification of monetary systems, the deputy prime minister recalled, "is tantamount in effect to the implementation of a single economic policy."

Aleksandr Shokhin said that three [as received] main requirements must be met in order to unite Russian Federation and Armenian monetary systems: The agreement "On Practical Steps To Create the Ruble Zone of a New Type" must be ratified, and the legislation and major bylaws regulating monetary, hard currency, and budget systems of the Russian Federation and Armenia must be streamlined; it is only then that the implementation of a single economic policy may be tackled.

Monetary Merger Discussed

LD1810203393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By reporters Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko: "Russia and Armenia Discuss Merger of Monetary Systems"; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan were involved in negotiations in Moscow on Monday [18 October] with a Russian delegation under Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and First Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin told Interfax that the talks focused on the merger of the monetary systems of the two countries, supplies of Russian gas to Armenia in 1994, and cooperation in transport.

Shokhin said that the two sides agreed that a merger would call for unification of legislation and a common economic policy, above all in cash and credit emission, centralized capital investments, the exchange rate of the ruble in bank transfer operations, as well as ratification of the agreement on a new ruble zone (already ratified by the Armenian parliament).

The Russian vice premier noted that a true merger of the monetary systems would take months, if not years. He believes that if Russia dealt with Armenia alone, whose cash turnover was relatively small, certain concessions could be made. But Russia has signed such agreements with five other CIS member nations which may demand similar concessions. "We do not force anybody into the ruble zone," Shokhin emphasized. He added that working towards a ruble zone smoothly functioning on stable long term principles was a headache for his government. In his words, the procedure of replacing Soviet cash of the 1961-92 vintages by new Russian bank notes is "another issue which needs coordination."

Russian-Latvian Talks Under Way in Moscow

LD1810192593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Another round of Russian-Latvian talks began in Moscow on Monday [18 October]. Its participants will discuss draft agreements on the social security of Russian servicemen, military retirees and their families, plus a number of other issues connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia. The chief Russian negotiator, Sergey Zotov, told Interfax about this before the beginning of the talks.

The two sides, he said, are planning to discuss "a package of agreements" on transport issues with a view to signing it in the near future. In addition, the two delegations intend to discuss a draft agreement on the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments, and a complex of border questions. They are to finalize, as well, a consular convention which could be signed on Wednesday.

According to the diplomat, the Russian delegation will have new members. Under a decree signed by President Boris Yeltsin recently it was joined by, in addition to Zotov himself, the new governor of the Pskov Region—Vladislav Tumanov, the Deputy Chairman of the State Property Committee - Aleksandr Ivanenko, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation - Aleksandr Smirnov, the Deputy Minister of External Economic Relations, Georgiy Gabunya, and several experts.

Defense Ministry Aide on Dismantling Ukraine Nuclear Arms

PM1910091393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Major General Vitaliy Yakovlev of Russian Federation Ministry of Defense: "Russia Is Ready To Clear Ukraine's Nuclear Obstacles. But Ukraine Considers Them Its Own"]

[Text] It might have been possible not to mention the incident in a nuclear munitions store in one of Ukraine's nuclear technical units, since a competent group of Russian specialists headed by chief designers and developers of nuclear munitions has already made a corresponding conclusion, and proposals have been submitted to the prime ministers of Ukraine and Russia for nuclear munitions—above all, those whose periods of serviceability are expiring and also those whose times for operational checks are overdue—to be moved without delay to Russian industrial enterprises for dismantling. But the reaction of the leadership of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense to what happened is surprising.

The UNIAN news agency prepared specially for IZVESTIYA an interview with General I. Bizhan, Ukrainian deputy minister of defense, in which he considers last year's Russian General Staff directive on the disbandment of the "S" installations on Ukrainian territory to be the chief cause that resulted in the store being overfilled with nuclear munitions. This really is a case of "the pot calling the kettle black...."

In May 1992 the Ukrainian president set out on a visit to Washington, and a letter to the U.S. President stated that..."Ukraine will have nonnuclear status, will adhere in the future to three nonnuclear principles...." Again in May Ukraine signed the Lisbon protocol, in which it pledged to subscribe to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible as a state which does not have them.

But in that same month the nuclear technical units, which handle approximately 600 strategic aircraft nuclear munitions, were sworn to the Ukrainian oath, which just a little earlier had also been taken by a unit of strategic bombers' flight personnel. Ukraine acquired for the first time the possibility in principle of using aircraft nuclear weapons.

It was then that the Russian Federation Defense Ministry drew attention to the incompatibility of the pledges adopted by Ukraine and the directly opposite actions of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and proposed moving nuclear munitions to the "S" installations, which then were still Russian and were designed to store nuclear munitions and to exercise control over their maintenance in Ukraine.

In June and July of last year Ukraine removed the nuclear warheads of strategic missiles from alert duty and stockpiled them. In so doing, just as at Pervomaysk, the norms for storing nuclear munitions were violated. The Russian Defense Ministry again proposed moving them to the "S" installations or sending them to Russia for subsequent elimination under Ukraine's control. Again there was no reply.

At the beginning of 1993 Ukraine set up the Center of Administrative Control of Troops of Strategic Nuclear Forces and attempted to transfer the Russian "S" installations to the jurisdiction of this center. It was after this that the Russian Defense Ministry decided to disband the "S" installations before the end of 1993.

Finally, in June the Agreement on the Status of the "S" Installations was initialed at the level of the leaders of Russian and Ukrainian military delegations. A few days later, however, this too was reduced to naught when on 2 July the Ukrainian parliament enshrined in legislation the right to own nuclear weapons. As early as 3 July (with enviable haste) the Ukrainian minister of defense transferred jurisdiction over the "S" installations, and they became Ukrainian.

The chief designers and developers of nuclear munitions cannot now answer for the safe handling of nuclear munitions on the territory of another state without having permanent control over their maintenance. The only radical solution to the problem is the implementation as soon as possible (as planned) of the agreement "On Salvaging Nuclear Charges" reached 3 September in the Crimea between the Russian Federation Government and the Ukrainian Government.

We must wait no longer. The Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy is ready to dismantle all of Ukraine's nuclear "obstacles" in the space of 18-20 months. In our view, Ukrainian parliamentarians must understand that nuclear weapons cannot be the hostage of political ambitions.

Czech Interior Minister Ruml Continues Visit

PM1910112993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Oct 93 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by Nikolay Yermolovich: "Russia and Czech Republic Promise Not To Spy on Each Other"]

[Text] Czech Republic Interior Minister Jan Ruml has come to Moscow because the "Russian-Chechen mafia" is much feared in his country.

Minister Ruml stated that the "Russian mafia" in the Czech Republic is involved in virtually every kind of criminal business. This includes extortion, prostitution, the organization of illegal emigration to the West across Czech territory, trading in drugs, weapons, radioactive substances, and stolen vehicles, and the laundering of "dirty" money. Ruml is therefore proposing to his Moscow counterparts that they exchange reliable information.

Ruml, 40, is a colorful figure. After high school he was refused entry into higher education "as being unreliable." Ruml signed the famous Charter-77 demanding the replacement of the totalitarian regime. After the "velvet" revolution Ruml became CSFR deputy minister of the interior, embarking on an unexpected career for a former dissident. Prior to this he had been a stoker, a filing clerk, a lumberjack, a janitor...

The meeting between rights activist Ruml and Russian external intelligence leader Yevgeniy Primakov attracted particular attention on the part of journalists. In the past these two services cooperated actively in espionage against the West. During Primakov's visit to Prague in May the press there carried reports that former KGB agents were continuing to work against the Czech Republic.

"We have been assured that the Russian service does not operate on the Czech Republic's territory," Ruml said.

"Does it follow from this that the Czech side does not conduct espionage in Russia?" your correspondent asked.

"Precisely so," the minister answered.

Hungary 'Extremely Happy' With New MiG Delivery

PM1810154393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Fedor Lukyanov report: "Hungary Happy with New MiG's and Would Like To Resume Arms Purchases in Russia"]

[Text] Budapest—The first squadron of eight MiG-29 interceptors has arrived from Krasnodar at the military airfield near the Hungarian city of Kecskemet. They will shortly be joined by a further 22 warplanes which Hungary has acquired from Russia in cancellation of a trade debt totalling almost $800 million. An accord on this matter was reached during the Russian president's visit to Hungary last year.

At the Hungarians' request, six of the first eight MiG's were flown in by Russian airmen. The other two planes were flown by Hungarian airmen: They are among the 96 who in recent months have been trained at the Russian military airfield near Krasnodar. The new planes will replace the outdated MiG-21's in service with the Hungarian Armed Forces.

It must be said that this deal, the largest Russian-Hungarian arms deal since the disbandment of the Warsaw Pact, has provoked a variety of responses. Hungary's neighbors, primarily Slovakia and Romania, are worried—will Hungary's new MiG-29's not upset the balance of forces in Europe?

According to the agreement on the reduction of conventional arms in Europe, which lays down limits for individual types of weapons for each country, Hungary will not exceed the permissible ceiling by acquiring the new MiG-29's and getting rid of the old MiG-21's. Furthermore, Slovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia are already armed with the same kind of planes. Slovakia, meanwhile, has decided to insure itself and has expressed a desire to augment its existing fleet by buying another five of these fighter-interceptors from Russia. This is also to pay off Russia's trade payment debt.

The misgivings and alarm over the new Russian MiG's have been dispelled within Hungary itself. Initially the press here carried such headlines as: "Do we need Russia's planes?" They use far more fuel than their Western equivalents, will bind Hungary to the Russian military-industrial complex, and anyway tiny Hungary does not have a large air space... The voices of doubt and alarm finally subsided after the recent visit to Russia by Hungarian Defense Minister Lajos Fur, who signed the agreement on cooperation between the two countries' defense ministries.

The Hungarian minister inspected the Krasnodar airfield where he visited the Hungarian airmen. By all accounts the Hungarian minister was extremely happy with what he described as the very latest "high technology" Russian hardware. On his return to Budapest, Lajos Fur stated that Hungary intends to resume purchases of modern weapons from Russia as soon as it has the money available. But if Russia and Hungary reach agreement that the remainder of the Russian debt (a further $800 million) will be cleared by means of deliveries of military hardware, the defense minister would then like to acquire the very latest antiaircraft missile complex, the S-300. Incidentally, talks on that score have already been held.

It cannot be ruled out that the USSR's former East European allies in the Warsaw Pact will receive other equipment from Russia, thus opening a new chapter in the history of military cooperation.

All the MiG-29's received by Hungary are due to be fitted in the near future with the "friend or foe" identification system, which will be supplied by military specialists from the United States and NATO.

Case for Arms Sales to West Argued

PM1510135193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

["Viewpoint" article by economist Sergey Paliy: "Saving Russia's 'Weapons Foundry' Will Help Preserve Stability in Europe"]

[Text] Europe, where until recently the United States and the USSR ensured the equilibrium of forces, is gradually growing accustomed to a new way of life. The breakup of the USSR left it face to face with the United States. However, the transatlantic state, still powerful but showing signs of decrepitude, can no longer act as the patron of the Old World. Primarily because the reunited Germany is quite successfully becoming the most powerful political factor on the European Continent.

Like a gigantic wave, the FRG is now beginning to pull the other states of Europe into its orbit. Like a drug, the strong German mark exercises a pull on entrepreneurs from all over Europe. It seems to have been a kind of passkey to the East. It is no accident that Germany's growing role in the economies of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary is already clearly visible. Moreover, Budapest—a former member of the Warsaw Pact—has concluded an unprecedented agreement with Bonn to modernize its Armed Forces. The new independent Baltic republics are also voicing hopes of attracting German capital.

It is quite possible that Germany's vigorous continental policy may in time slip into revanchism. Needless to say there are no signs to indicate that it intends preparing for a "hot" war in the future. But, bearing the lessons of history in mind, no one can rule out such a turn of events. And in the event of a turn for the worse, a possible solution would be for all European states at once to collectively check German expansionism. It is not of course a question of an immediate economic boycott, but of developing multilateral ties that consider other countries' interests. An option must be found that would not offend the FRG and would reflect the defensive interests of the countries of Europe without violating U.S. interests in Europe. I am sure that Russia too must now organize regional cooperation with certain European countries.

Nor, given present-day realities, can there be any question of forming new military blocs. The Mediterranean states' defense initiatives, for instance, can be coordinated via their economic integration. With a "common" military economy these states could make substantial savings on military spending and systematically reduce production of what are ineffective categories of arms—compared with other countries' output—buying more modern equipment from their regional partners.

If this question is raised for discussion, the European states may now conclude that it is far more beneficial to have Russia as an economic partner than as a political adversary.

The Russian military-industrial complex does indeed have vast capacities. However, its export potential is only 10-percent utilized. MiG and Su combat aircraft with European electronic systems could provide real competition for U.S. products, as could T-80U tanks, Piranha submarines, IFV-3 infantry fighting vehicles, and Thor-M1 surface-to-air missile systems.

It is extremely important that Russia could supply the whole range of its state-of-the-art arms to pay off its loans. Turkey, with numerically the largest armed forces of any European NATO country, has already taken advantage of this situation. Ankara has already bought military hardware from Russia—20 helicopters, 25 armored personnel carriers, and small arms—paying just $15 million in all.

Turkey has also shown great interest in producing certain categories of Russian weapons at home under license. Other NATO countries might also be interested in that kind of cooperation.

Economically this kind of cooperation is also profitable for Russia. In the opinion of Western experts, at least $15 billion will be needed for conversion. However, we can find the money to switch the military-industrial complex to nonmilitary production just by increasing exports of combat hardware since revenue from arms sales in 1992 totaled $1.9 billion. We do not have enough other sources of hard currency to even pay the interest on the loans. Incidentally, we could supply technical services as well as military equipment "as a package." Military servicing would provide one-fourth of the revenue of arms exports. In turn, new partners could provide us with industrial equipment and "know-how" in exchange for defense equipment that they need.

Paradoxically enough, preserving production of military hardware in Russia could help preserve peace in Europe.

First, production of combat hardware directly for the Russian Army would drop. Second, if we produced some systems and arms components for European countries, our partners themselves would cut this production accordingly. That will impel them to convert their military-industrial complexes. Third, military production would be internationalized, in other words it would not, as it were, be purely Russian.

Moreover, steady exports of spare parts for foreign and Russian military hardware might prove far more profitable than exporting the equipment itself. Thus the Urals could become the "weapons foundry" for the whole world. But the main point is that this could be the basis for Russia's integration into the system of world economic ties, whereby everyone produces what they do better and cheaper than the others.

It is well known that flotation admits the participation of foreign capital. Therefore it is quite possible that during the conversion process our future partners will be able to acquire some shares in enterprises producing armored hardware, aircraft, surface warships, and submarines. There is one condition for Russia: That its net hard-currency profit must increase dramatically.

Of course, Russia is now enfeebled and it will not soon become a world leader. However, we must extricate ourselves from the economic crisis as soon as possible. I do not think that we can improve our domestic market without breaking onto the foreign market.

From the Editorial Office: Material published under the "Viewpoint" rubric does not necessarily reflect the editorial office's stance.

EC Unable To Provide Further Financial Assistance

PM1810124593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Yuriy Kovalenko report: "Europe's Coffers Are Empty, Moscow Is Advised To Rely on Its Own Resources"]

[Text] Moscow and Paris have come to an agreement to reschedule repayment of Russia's state debt to France, amounting to about 10 billion French francs or $1.75 billion.

This accord was reached within the framework of a general agreement between Russia and the Paris Club, comprising 19 of its creditor countries, which was signed in the French capital last April. Under the April agreement, Russia will repay only $2 billion of the $17 billion which Moscow should have repaid to its creditors in 1993. A 10-year moratorium has been extended to the remainder.

At the same time, in the wake of the loud verbal support for Boris Yeltsin expressed by the EC during his difficulties, the Western leaders are sending different signals to Moscow. Their purpose is to dispel any vain illusions—if they should still persist—as regards the provision of further aid to Russia.

According to the newspaper LIBERATION's conclusion, the EC cannot afford to make a new gesture and put on the table the cash which would somehow ease Russia's painful transition to the market. This is not a question of lacking political willingness or being tightfisted. The Community's coffers are empty as a result of the persistent economic slump.

Furthermore, the shortage of cash is aggravated by the acute shortage of ideas on how the West should assist Moscow in the implementation of economic reforms. "Help yourselves, and the West will then help you"—this was the advice given to the Russian Government a few days ago by France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, addressing the National Assembly.

The West's promises were impressive on paper. According to IMF estimates, Russia should have received about $80 billion in 1992-1993. But the amount actually provided from this total last year was not more than $30 billion. Data on aid for the current is not yet available.

Bonn or Paris believe that any injection of finances into Russia at present is tantamount to trying to fill a bottomless pot. Moscow lacks the appropriate structures which would have made it possible to effectively utilize Western capital. A sizeable proportion of the amounts paid over ends up in the bank accounts of several Russian citizens in Zurich, London, or one of the world's other financial capitals.

The long-awaited Treaty of Partnership and Cooperation, which Russia and the EC will more than likely sign before year's end, will hardly produce any substantial changes. This treaty, envisaging a reduction of customs tariffs, should help expand trade and economic exchanges and the movement of services and capital. The long-term objective of this partnership will be to create a free trade zone between Europe and our fatherland. But, according to economists, the talks are progressing with difficulty despite all the good intentions. The West is to blame more often than not. The Europeans are trying to protect themselves from the cheap commodities which Russia can export. This applies primarily to steel, aluminum, and agricultural produce.

Some economists claim in general that the signing of the treaty will hardly change anything. Moscow is already exporting to the EC whatever it can—mainly energy sources. As for the further development of trade, according to people in the Community's Brussels headquarters, it depends mainly on the Russian enterprises' potential to produce competitive output and sell it on the Western markets.

To sum up, LIBERATION concludes, the EC assumes that it has already done as much as it could for Russia. Therefore, Russia now should rely only on its own resources.

Government To Pay $23.4 Billion to EBRD on 1991-92 Debt

LD1810153493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Very shortly, the Russian Finance Ministry intends to pay $23.4 billion to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] for the Russian Federation's overdue debts for 1991-92. This is stated in a resolution of the Russian Government signed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Political Issues

Presidential Aide on Constitutional Referendum

PM1910093593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Oct 93 First Edition p 1

[Interview with Mikhail Aleksandrovich Krasnov, "assessor" to the president's aide for legal matters, by Aleksandr Linkov; place and date not given: "The People Should Have the Last Word"]

[Text] In December Russian citizens will not only be taking part in elections but also expressing their attitude to the draft new Russian constitution. In a recent edict President Boris Yeltsin has scheduled 12 December for the referendum. Why was it necessary to make this decision? This and many other points were discussed with Mikhail Aleksandrovich Krasnov, assessor [referent] to the Russian president's aide for legal matters.

[Linkov] Mikhail Aleksandrovich, why did the Russian president decide to put the draft new constitution to a referendum?

[Krasnov] Boris Nikolayevich is proceeding above all on the basis that the greatest legitimacy comes from the direct expression of the people's will. This thereby provides certainty for the new constitution. Yes, there are other approaches—via a constituent assembly or the Federal Assembly—but a referendum is the more democratic approach. The people should have the final say.

The question naturally arises—why choose 12 December specifically? To my mind, this is proof that the Russian president is by no means being dictatorial. After all, if there is no constitution, the Federal Assembly will start work on the basis of the provision on federal organs of power in the transitional period. If the fundamental law is adopted, parliament will start work on the basis of the Constitution, like all other state organs.

[Linkov] Which text of the constitution will be put to the referendum?

[Krasnov] We would recall that even before 21 September a Constitutional Commission working group had been set up and was at work. It concluded that the two existing drafts were closely related and that there was the necessary basis for creating a single coordinated document. The group's work has been continuing. A commission of famous academics, representatives of Federation components, and a number of former people's deputies has now been set up to finalize the existing two drafts of the fundamental law. In early November the text of the constitution will be submitted to the participants in the Constitutional Conference. Following the debate it will be sent to the Russian president.

[Linkov] Arguments continue among politicians and academics as to which would be better to submit to the referendum—the full text of the constitution or the main provisions. What will Russian citizens be presented with 12 December?

[Krasnov] The direct text of the constitution will be submitted. This is the most proper approach. Since, if the main provisions were submitted, there would be an opportunity for varying amounts of speculation. After all, the interpretation of provisions is a subjective thing. An integral text will allow us to avoid such things.

[Linkov] In this instance I have to mention the timetable. There are less than two months to go to 12 December. Isn't this too little time for everyone to look into the new constitution?

[Krasnov] The timetable is tight, of course. But let us not forget that work on the fundamental law has to all intents and purposes been under way for almost three years. Texts of the draft have already been published repeatedly in massive print runs. No fundamental changes to the final draft are foreseen. So there is no reason to say that the population will simply not have time to read it. We would add that the edict envisages that the new constitution will be extensively explained in the mass media.

[Linkov] There have also been a number of questions about how the votes will be counted.

[Krasnov] The statute ratified by the edict states that he Constitution shall be deemed to have been passed if more than 50 percent of the turnout has voted for it. The question arises as to whether this is acceptable for the Constitution. But there is also the rider that this calculation is only possible if no less than 50 percent of voters turn out for the referendum. Then the question arises of the quorum for the expression of the people's will. What number of people can be dispensed with? I am convinced that we must rely on the active section of the population—people who are not afraid to take responsibility for the fate of their state. World practice shows that in developed countries, where referendums have become the norm, things are geared precisely to such citizens.

Public Chamber of Constitutional Assembly To Meet 19 Oct

LD1810155293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomicheva]

[Text] St. Petersburg October 18 TASS—The public chamber of the Constitutional Assembly will convene on Tuesday [19 October], according to St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak who said it would focus on preparations for the referendum on a new constitution and for elections.

Sobchak criticised the decision allowing government members to run for parliament. "It is necessary to avoid extremes when the president is demanded to allow government ministers to be members of the State Duma (lower house)", he told TASS on Monday, adding that "it is at least strange when practically all deputy premiers begin to create new parties".

"A question arises: Which views does the government express?", he asked.

Sobchak said that the specified draft constitution will be submitted to the president and published in the near future. Additional remarks will be discussed at the Tuesday meeting of the public chamber.

The mayor, who will run for parliament from the Democratic Reform Movement, urged to hold elections as scheduled to avoid any accusations of dictatorship. He believes all political parties are ready for the polls.

Sobchak believes there are three main requirements which the candidates should meet. Firstly, they should be professionals. Secondly, these should be people who had already achieved success in professional and private life. "They should be no losers", he explained. Thirdly, the candidates should have a realistic approach to all political, economic and social problems. "There should be no dogmas which can bring the economy and the people into a plight", he said.

In St. Petersburg Sobchak plans to have a 20-25-men strong city council and each of its members will be personally responsible for a fixed share of work.

Constitutional Court Secretary Interviewed

LD1810212493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] As the fundamental principle of the judiciary, the lifetime tenure of office must also apply to Constitutional Court Judges, CC [Constitutional Court] Secretary Yuriy Rudkin says.

In an interview with Interfax on Monday [18 October], he disagreed with Acting CC Chairman Nikolay Vitruk, who insists that this should not apply to the Constitutional Court whose members must all be re-elected. Rudkin says political considerations must not be allowed to prevail in resolving the controversy.

In his view, the best option is to elect five new judges to bring CC strength to 18 as provided by Russia's draft new constitution. "As a matter of fact, the draft provides for judges to be appointed by the Federation Council on recommendation from the president rather than being elected," he said. At any rate, the incumbent judges must stay put unless they prefer to resign, Rudkin said.

The official said CC judges meeting on Monday had agreed that the Court must be preserved as an independent legal institution.

Krylov Named New Deputy Foreign Minister

MK1510145093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 2

[Viktor Zamyatin report: "Deputy Foreign Minister Appointed. Reshuffle At Foreign Ministry Continues"]

[Text] Yesterday it was reported that Sergey Krylov has been appointed deputy foreign minister. This appointment was a continuation in a series of reshuffles under way at the Foreign Ministry. The new deputy minister will probably replace Georgiy Kunadze, who is considered Andrey Kozyrev's man and is responsible for the Foreign Ministry's personnel policy, among other things. According to unofficial reports, Mr. Kunadze will be appointed ambassador to Seoul.

According to an assessment by a high-ranking diplomat, Sergey Krylov has demonstrated high qualifications while on diplomatic work. This is why Foreign Ministry officials accepted Mr. Krylov's appointment "positively and enthusiastically." At the same time, according to another source at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Krylov's relations with his colleagues so far leave much to be desired "owing to some peculiarities of his character."

No official reasons have yet been given for Sergey Krylov's appointment. To all appearances, he will replace Georgiy Kunadze and will be responsible, in the first place, for the selection and allocation of diplomatic personnel. Probably, apart from this, Krylov (unlike Kunadze) will supervise Russia's policy in the Baltics, not in the Asia-Pacific region.

[Article includes the following boxed passage]

Biography

Sergey Borisovich Krylov, age 44, Russian, married, has two children. A career diplomat with the diplomatic rank of envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary second class, he graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1971, worked at the USSR Embassy in Zaire, then at the Foreign Ministry's Second African Department, and at the minister's secretariat. In 1990-1992, he was adviser-envoy at the embassy of the Soviet Union (later Russia) in Portugal, and from the spring of 1992 was the Foreign Ministry's executive secretary and a collegium member. Upon Krylov's arrival, changes in the Foreign Ministry's personnel policy should be expected.

Government Leaders' 15 Oct Activities Reported

PM1810120193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text] **Assignments, Meetings, Sessions Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin has been on a working visit to Astrakhan, where an intergovernmental conference of Caspian states on the development of the Caspian**

Sea shelf was held. Viktor Chernomyrdin also met with leaders of oblast administrations and enterprise directors.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko met with representatives of the creative intelligentsia. The meeting took place in the Central House of the Actor.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets took part in a session of the commission on industrial policy. On the afternoon of 15 October he took part in the work of a conference on questions of structural policy.

First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar held a session of the commission for the examination and preparation of normative acts.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha has been in Astrakhan. He accompanied the head of government on his trip.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov took part in a conference of the working group finalizing the draft constitution, which was held in the Kremlin. The vice premier then met with representatives of the Stolichnyy Bank.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin took part in the work of a conference entitled "Investment in the Economy of Siberia," and then took part in a session of the commission on the debts and assets of the former USSR.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray took part in a session of the working group on legal questions.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays took part, together with First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar, in the work of the commission for the preparation of normative acts on the reform of state enterprises.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov held a conference with leaders of the ministries in his charge. Yuriy Yarov then took part in a session of the commission for the transfer of buildings and premises which belonged to the former Supreme Soviet to the Council of Ministers-Government of Russia. On the afternoon of 15 October he participated in the resolution of questions concerned with shipping food and other goods to the regions of the Far North, which were discussed at an operational group session.

Moscow Mayor Orders Eviction of Former Deputies

LD1810193893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov has ordered former Russian deputies who are not covered by Yeltsin's decree on social security guarantees to former members of parliament to quit the Moscow flats they were provided with for the term of office.

Luzhkov instructed heads of the prefectures and Moscow Police to take immediate measures to evict the recalcitrant deputies.

The measure covers a total of more than 30,000 square meters of living space located in different parts of Moscow.

The administration's utilities' department is to take over the accommodation to be provided for would be deputies of the State Duma for their term of office.

Deputies Appeal To Keep Housing

LD1810194693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] A group of 128 former Russian deputies have appealed to the government takeover commission to allow them to hold on to the Moscow apartments they were provided with for the term of office, a well-informed source told Interfax. He said no solution had yet been found how to resolve the difficulty, but "each case will be considered on its own merit."

None of the deputies or their dependents has been evicted through the three-day notice to move out of the apartments which expired on Monday [18 October].

Pochinok Describes Scene at White House

OW1910011593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Report on studio interview with Aleksandr Petrovich Pochinok, chairman of the Commission for Transferring the Affairs of the Supreme Soviet, by Inna Yermilova, including video of tour of the Moscow White House; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] [Yermilova] Our guest is Aleksandr Petrovich Pochinok, chairman of the Commission for Transferring the Affairs of the Supreme Soviet. Aleksandr Petrovich, I would like to go back a week when you kindly conducted a tour of the White House for our program. I must say you were an excellent guide, and our television viewers will confirm this in a moment, although the tour was not very pleasant, to put it mildly. Let us take a look.

[Begin recording] [Pochinok] The most peaceful committee of the Supreme Soviet, the Committee for Construction, was burned out. Yefim Vladimirovich Basin, the current chairman of Gosstroy [State Construction Committee], was here yesterday. He stood in his completely destroyed office—you can see its blackened windows—and said nothing. Just take a look how our builders worked.

Direct hits, yet all you can see are pockmarks and chipped marble. Not a single smashed column. On the one hand, we should thank the troops for not destroying the building, while on the other hand look at how well we build. You can see the direct hits. The facing blew off, but that was all. Not a single foreign company was involved in its construction. The elevators were imported, but the facing was our marble. It was built by the construction workers of Glavmosstroy [Main

Moscow Administration for Construction Work] and designed by Mosproekt [Moscow Design Bureau]. They are the same 3,000 people who are now coming to restore it. The places where snipers resided have been destroyed. As you can see, the gunfire was accurate. You can see the broken windows. That is where the snipers were.

At the top you can see our canteen, while below is the large foyer of the assembly hall. That is the famous balcony from which the president spoke in August 1991. This is the square where defenders of the White House met, the place where tens of thousands of its defenders stood. You can see the kind of transformation that occurred later. You can see proclamations and pamphlets on the board cursing Yeltsin and demanding a coup—a state coup, an anti-state coup in Russia—demanding that power be turned over to the communists.

Gradually the people who stood on this balcony did not notice the moment when their purely parliamentary struggle changed and they appealed for armed bandits to come here. Over there you can see pamphlets of Barkashov's union. You will see there are swastikas all over the building, as well as pamphlets with swastikas. Just take a look at how they prepared for battle. This dugout was built according to all the rules of war. They built these dugouts around the White House.

Here you can see the nameplates with deputies' names are already missing. Here, here, and here. They are for Ambartsumov, Krasavchenko, and my own seat over there. In other words, they excluded people and did not forget to promptly remove their nameplates. If a republic did not support them, they did not forget to remove its flag. You can see how many poles are missing flags, how they have been thinned out. Without a quorum—they never had enough present—they nevertheless considered it legal to exclude anyone they did not need.

Here is the protocol that was violated. You can see it was signed by Sokolov and Abdulatipov. If it had been adopted, there would have been no bloodshed. Here it is. Protocol Number One was signed by Abdulatipov, Sokolov, and Filatov with the aim of ensuring security and carrying out the collection and storage of weapons. After implementation, structures were to completely stop military confrontation. Here are the signatures: Abdulatipov and Sokolov [dated 1 October]. They brought this to the so-called congress which rejected it. You can see, nobody wanted them.

[Yermilova] Mine-clearing is underway in the White House. It is interesting. What places were mined?

[Pochinok] Doors were mined, and mines were placed downstairs. Besides these mines there were obnoxious booby traps of the Afghan type. Now look, this is the editorial and publishing department. You can see that everything not nailed down was hauled off and plundered. Everything possible was stolen. Everywhere you go in the White House you will see bottles of alcohol. Here is the assembly hall of the self-styled government of the Russian Federation.

[Yermilova] The assembly hall?

[Pochinok] Yes, the so-called government.

[Yermilova] There is even a sign up: The Government.

[Pochinok] The Government of Russia. Take a look. This is the government. Here the so-called government attempted to hold its sessions. As you know they never did manage to form a government, but there were several so-called ministers. Here it says: The Great Russian Empire, the USSR; its capital is Tiraspol. This slogan was written in the assembly hall of the government by people who came from the Dniester region.

[Yermilova, talking to a person in another room] Valeriy Grigoryevich Bruyenkov, so you think you can restore everything?

[Bruyenkov] Well, temporarily, since permission was given to come in. I want to get my office back into some semblance of order.

[Pochinok] That is the main thing.

[Bruyenkov, pointing to the office door] Surely you have noticed the boot marks.

[Yermilova] They simply broke in?

[Bruyenkov] The adventurists and looters simply kicked in the doors.

[Pochinok] This is the door through which Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov exited. Lying on the floor you can see what it all began with—a decree convening the 10th extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies: To be convened immediately. [signed] Khasbulatov, 22 September.

[Yermilova] It is lying there as if intentionally put there.

[Pochinok] Take a look at what he has here. The DEN newspaper. First Ipatyev House, then the rest of Russia. It opposes Yeltsin. Here is Zorkin's statement, and material signed by Khasbulatov that was handed out. This looks like some sort of tricolored flag. They cut everything away and hung out the remaining red portion. You can see what sort of flag the White House defenders had.

[Yermilova] It is not too wide, but at least it is long.

[Pochinok] Yes, long and red. They defended it under this banner. What did Yuriy Mikhaylovich Baburin do during the siege of the White House? Here, you can count the bottles. This was the center of the resistance. Everything smells of cigarette smoke. Damn, what is this? It is burned out.

[Yermilova] It is a video cassette player.

[Pochinok] A smashed video cassette player. All over the building are shoes. Fifteen million rubles worth of shoes were brought here. They helped themselves to them, and now they are lying all over the building. This is the Committee for Culture. A burned-out samovar is all that remains. Even the contents of all the safes were burned.

You can see that safe; it is open. Some electronic equipment was hidden in it, and everything inside was burned. Nothing remains.

[Yermilova] The view from this broken window is so beautiful. The Moskva River.

[Pochinok] Yes, and the Ukraina Hotel. An officer who was standing in the Ukraina Hotel was killed from one of these windows [illegible] could be seen through the window and was the first person to die early in the morning. Snipers fired from somewhere around here. [end recording] [video switches back to the studio]

[Yermilova] Aleksandr Petrovich, as you know we took those pictures a week ago. The situation in the White House must be somewhat different now.

[Pochinok] The situation is quite different. The builders have already arrived and have been given a strict schedule. They will turn over a part of the building in December. The entire military Glavspetsstroy [Main Directorate For Specialized Construction] is on the job, as well as all the Moscow builders I spoke about who built the White House and practically all other organizations. About 5,000 workers will be on the job at the White House tomorrow. Everything that could be cleaned up has been; furniture and valuables have been delivered. The awards locker where orders and medals were traditionally stored was found and has been returned, as has the gift storeroom—or what was left of it—including the safes containing gold, valuables belonging to the deputies, and office equipment.

In other words, the White House is taking on a relative semblance of order and work is under way. We must manage before the frosts [moroz].... [pauses] The head of construction Moroz wants to beat the frosts so it will be warm in the building. [both laugh at the pun]

[Yermilova] Well, God speed as they say. Aleksandr Petrovich, what is the commission doing today? What are your major tasks?

[Pochinok] The first global problem is to give holiday pay to all members of the staff. I think we will complete this in a week. The new apparatus of the Federal Assembly is already being formed. There will be a minimum of 500 people working in it this month. We have to manage the buildup by December. The Commission for Legislative Proposals has begun its work, and it as well as the Committee for Human Rights must be provided with all their needs. We must hand over the White House property of which there was so much talk about to the new owner. The decision to put it all in the hands of one owner—the Main Social Production Administration—is probably correct. This will prevent competition between the future Federal Assembly and the president or government over whose dacha is more lavish. This will ensure the same levels for everybody and will eliminate talk about privileges. These are the tasks. As far as the accounts are concerned, they have all been tallied. It will be possible to turn them over. About a billion rubles remains in the Supreme Soviet. There have been no transactions. This has all been ascertained.

[Yermilova] Well, not too much time has passed, but a lot of serious work has already been done. How did you manage to do this?

[Pochinok] Well, the people who are working right now managed to do it. Just take a look. Everybody, from the commandant of the building to the soldiers and builders who are removing trash, is working. The fence around the White House went up in literally one day. Where have you ever seen such a solid fence go up at such a rate? Practically everyone wants to work like this. People understand what the White House means to Russia, and although they will never forget, they want to eliminate the consequences of what happened.

[Yermilova] As quickly as possible.

[Pochinok] As quickly as possible.

[Yermilova] My last question, Aleksandr Petrovich. I know some family keepsakes were found, and I understand they have even been returned to their owners?

[Pochinok] Yes, one of our deputies stored some very well-known old noble family relics there. Everything was found to be shipshape, and he took it all away. He was lucky they survived.

[Yermilova] Thank you. I would like to remind our television viewers our guest was Aleksandr Petrovich Pochinok, chairman of the Commission for Transferring the Affairs of the Supreme Soviet. All the best to you.

[Pochinok] Thank you.

Deputies Allowed Into White House to Retrieve Belongings

PM1910095593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Interview with White House Military Commandant Arkadiy Baskayev by Ruslan Ignatyev; place and not given: "Ex-Deputies Allowed to Go Into the White House"]

[Text] Yesterday the ex-deputies of the former Russian Federation Supreme Soviet were given permits to get into their place of work. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA asked White House Military Commandant Arkadiy Baskayev to talk about the situation which prevails today in the former House of the Soviets.

"It is true that with the agreement of the prosecutor's office, the former people's deputies have now been allowed to go into the White House," Arkadiy Georgiyevich said. "The examination of the premises has practically been concluded. On 14 October, we discovered one assault rifle and a pistol. I hope that these were the last weapons in the building. The explosive devices and mines have also been eliminated, and now the people who worked here can go into their offices and take their personal belongings.

"A government commission to restore the complex of buildings met in session at 1000. This commission is made up of 21 people. This was its first conference. It was determined at the conference what would be done in the immediate future. The construction organizations have been commissioned. Restoration work and preparations for repairs have already started. Practically all floors have been damaged. But telephone communications have already been set up almost everywhere.

"At the moment, the White House is being guarded by internal troops together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. When the state of emergency is over the militia will be in control of maintaining order.

"As you already know, a decision has been adopted to hand over the entire complex of White House buildings to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers—Government. A. Pochinok, chairman of the commission for the transfer of the property of the former Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, will hold a conference 15 October, where detailed information about issues that interest you will be provided.

Baburin's Attempt To Take Over Security Ministry Detailed

PM1810123593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Sergey Baburin in Bid to Take Control of Security Ministry"]

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that the former deputies Sergey Baburin and Ivan Fedoseyev suddenly appeared at the Security Ministry building on the Lubyanka on the evening of 3 October and demanded a meeting with the leadership.

Truckloads of mutineers were then already moving on Ostankino. Half an hour before the ex-parliamentarians appeared in the Prechistenka area a group of gunmen tried to capture the Military Counterintelligence Directorate for Moscow City and Oblast, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Security Ministry. There was nobody in the building apart from a guard armed with a bayonet and the chief of the directorate. The terrorists tried to make the latter swear an oath of allegiance to Rutskoy and Khasbulatov, but they met with a point-blank refusal. Having seized several assault rifles, the raiders escaped.

This incident was the reason why the ex-parliamentarians were nonetheless received by a deputy minister. Sergey Baburin, who headed the new committee set up by the Supreme Soviet after 21 September to monitor the power structures, started blackmailing ministry staff. He stated that the Army had already sided with the White House and that the Security Ministry had no choice but to start carrying out Barannikov's instructions.

In response there was a firm "no"—expressed, according to certain reports, in very coarse language. The deputy minister demanded that the gunmen cease their excesses on the streets of Moscow and return the weapons seized at the Military Counterintelligence Directorate. This latter demand, strangely enough, was carried out very quickly. Baburin and Fedoseyev left the Lubyanka empty-handed.

Journalists Prevented From Meeting Terekhov in Prison

PM1910083193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Burbyga and Valeriy Yakov: "MVD Deputy Minister Yegorov Hiding Terekhov From the Press"]

[Text] Following the article in IZVESTIYA No. 195 claiming that Lieutenant Colonel Terekhov, the leader of the "Officers' Union," had been charged for crimes outside the CIS Troops Headquarters, the editorial office started getting telephone calls from readers. Many of them expressed doubt that illicit methods—put more simply, beatings during the investigation—were not being used in respect of Terekhov. IZVESTIYA decided to check on the authenticity of these rumors.

The Moscow Military District Military Prosecutor's Office, in whose jurisdiction S. Terekhov finds himself, willingly met us halfway, and the leader of the investigating group issued us with a special letter on 15 October addressed to the chief of the "Matrosskaya Tishina" Prison. The letter, bearing two official seals, requested permission for a meeting with the accused for a photo session and a brief interview. We were told verbally that this paper fundamentally constituted authorization and there should be no problems at "Matrosskaya Tishina."

Initially there were none. We were allowed into the administrative block, after our credentials and the letter had been closely scrutinized. We were seated in a clubhouse with bars on the windows, and then invited to move into the operational section.

Here it transpired that Terekhov was being held not in a cell but in the prison hospital, but this would not prevent our meeting with him, the "Matrosskaya Tishina" workers assured us. We were even given the number of the office where the interview would be conducted. However, the news of our arrival had reached MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] channels, and the ministry started telephoning every five or 10 minutes. Militia chiefs at all levels started to vigilantly inquire who we were, where we were from, why we were there, whether we had authorization, and who had issued it. After two hours of being kept waiting we were suddenly told that M. Yegorov, first deputy minister of internal affairs, had ordered that we be refused access. Attempts to telephone him and find out why he had refused came to nothing—he was not taking the calls and was negotiating only through his aide. The only reason given for the refusal was a reference to the state of emergency. The militia official was unable to name the article in the law on the state of emergency which prohibits such meetings. Nor did he even try to—probably in the belief that laws do not apply to the ministry.

We left the "Matrosskaya Tishina" empty-handed, not having established whether Mr. Terekhov had been beaten up there or not.

'Democratic Choice' Urges Continued Ban on Rallies

MK1610124393 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Democratic Choice: Rallies To Be Abolished, Ilich to Be Buried"]

[Text] The Democratic Choice political bloc has come out with a statement. It says that the banned communo-fascist organizations may try to stage mass events in Moscow and also in other cities of Russia, timing them to coincide with the upcoming anniversary of the 1917 coup. Therefore Democratic Choice proposes that even after the emergency situation has been lifted in Moscow the ban on public rallies and demonstrations be preserved from 5 to 10 November.

We believe, the statement says, that it is important to understand that Lenin's body in the Mausoleum remains an unshakable "inspiring" symbol, sustaining the "combat" morale of part of the population. Therefore it would be desirable in the very near future (already in October) to bury Lenin's body, dismantle Lenin monuments throughout Russia, and remove from state buildings and premises all Communist and Soviets symbols.

The authors of the statement are proposing that the 7 and 8 November public holidays be canceled and added to Christmas holidays.

Authorities' Inaction Against 'Fascist' Group Assailed

PM1910074793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Aleksey Chelnokov report: "Nest of Fascists Sealed. But the Competent Organs Have Not Dropped In"]

[Text] "Russian National Unity," which was disbanded at almost the same time as the other radical movements and soviet organs, had a secure "cover." IZVESTIYA journalists were possibly the first people to take a detailed look round the nest of Fascist Barkashovists lodged inside the building of Moscow's Sverdlovskiy Rayon Soviet. Here in room 105, "Fuehrer" A. Barkashov, who is now on the run, used to preside just a month ago. He used to preside with his back to a wall decorated with a two-meter-high swastika banner...

On 4 October, hoodlums wearing camouflage, having escaped from the White House by underground passages, visited this room for the last time in order to "do away with" all the compromising material. Together with documents they removed the furniture, leaving only cigarette stubs, vodka bottles, and waste paper. Admittedly, in their haste they did forget some valuable items. For example, we found a grateful letter to Rayon Soviet Chairman A. Semenov expressing "profound gratitude for the opportunity you have offered us to pursue our activity in the rayon soviet building...."

IZVESTIYA has already reported the fact that the chairman offered shelter to the fascists.

He has disappeared. I was told at the Tverskoye Territorial Administration that the ex-chairman had turned up just the other day without leaving a forwarding address: "I'll call you." It was the same story with another Barkashov confidant—Yu. Kachan, director of the "Delta" firm. Last year he employed Russian National Unity gunmen when he concluded a contract to guard the rayon soviet building.

The competent organs still have to investigate how an openly pro-fascist organization could have operated for so long in the center of the capital. Entirely legally, moreover: During the summer Russian National Unity was registered at the Moscow Administration of the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice. The initial discoveries are giving rise to distressing conjectures. It appears that a powerful pro-fascist lobby used to exist in the power structures. Judge for yourselves: Semenov is former chief of Butyrskaya prison, and Kachan was formerly an investigator in T. Gdlyan's group. Lists of gunmen from the Russian National Unity subunit that "defended" the White House include the names of several dozen officers (some, it is true, are former officers) from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the security organs, and even Army intelligence.

This may explain the strange passivity of the law-enforcement organs, who for two weeks have not found the time to visit the fascist headquarters. And it may also explain why Barkashov was not prevented from removing documents that could shed light on his spicy relations with the authorities.

According to information from a trustworthy source, the Moscow headquarters of Russian National Unity has moved to the vicinity of the Petrovsko-Razumovskoye subway station, but most of the gunmen have relocated to Krasnoyarsk.

Calling Government 'Totalitarian Regime' Rebutted

PM1810134793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 Morning Edition p 8

[Article by Aleksandr Kaminskiy, doctor of historical sciences: "'Days of Damnation' as Seen by Govorukhin"]

[Text] I read S. Govorukhin's article "Days of Damnation" and literally wept from pity for the author. You see, he "spent the whole year in a journalistic investigation of the crimes of Power" and now is no longer able to publish the compromising material he has gathered. The newspapers PRAVDA and DEN and other symbols of glasnost are no more. The only confusing thing is that I read his article not in a samizdat publication but in IZVESTIYA—a newspaper with a clearly distinct political attitude. Is this kind of thing possible under the totalitarian regime which Govorukhin writes about? He too is an experienced man and knows that under a totalitarian regime "attempts will be made either to remove or to defame" such a valuable witness as himself. And he adds: "The latter is the most reliable method." No way; a truly totalitarian regime always operates in accordance with the first of the options he identifies, whereas a regime which selects the second is by no means totalitarian. Mr. Govorukhin has lost his way among words and concepts which he does not understand.

Several times his article repeats the word "parliament." Anyone with an idea of what a real parliament is realizes that our Supreme Soviet, if it even came close to being such, did so only until the moment when some of its deputies got to their feet and voted for their absent colleagues, to which the Supreme Soviet leadership paid not the slightest attention. From that moment all of its decisions lost legitimacy.

What did this "parliament" uphold, what ideals did it defend? You do not need to read the transcripts of Supreme Soviet sessions to answer this question.. You only have to look at the film chronicles of the past year's demonstrations and rallies. Whose portrait did Yeltsin's supporters carry? Yeltsin's. Whose portraits did Khasbulatov's and Rutskoy's supporters carry? Lenin's and Stalin's. Is it not clear that if, God forbid, parliament had won, the people in power would not even be Rutskoy and Khasbulatov but Anpilov, Konstantinov, Makashov, and their ilk. Govorukhin did not wish to notice that communism, fascism, and national-patriotism are one and the same thing.

I am prepared to believe that a considerable proportion of the compromising material on the authorities gathered by Govorukhin corresponds to the truth. And this gives me no pleasure, of course. But officialdom in Russia has always been corrupt. This is primarily why the country has always been poor and the state has never had the money to pay working people according to their labor. And this will continue to be the case so long as people seek to obtain state posts not because politics is their vocation and a profession they love but because it is a well-paid job.

We live in a period of of untamed capitalism with all its "charms," but we cannot skip over it to the other side, just like a new-born baby cannot immediately become an adult. Therefore, the only hope we have of traveling the path already traveled by a large proportion of mankind is to be in a situation where we can get through it considerably faster.

When people talk about the history of reforms in Russia they always mention that almost all of them have not been seen through to completion. As a historian, it seems to me that the situation in which the president found himself just before 21 September is essentially similar to that of most Russian reformers before him. Catherine II, Aleksandr I, and Nikolay I were in approximately the same situation. In order to implement their reformist ideas they essentially had to carry out a coup d'etat and thereby put their own power at risk. Yeltsin is the first person to have risked this during our period of history. Time will tell whether this risk was justified, but the very fact that the president resolved to take this step makes him one of the most unusual figures in Russian political history.

And a final point: it has become fashionable in our country to use quotations from the classics in headlines. Govorukhin borrowed his title from I.A. Bunin. The only thing is, I don't know whether this would have pleased Bunin, who hated both bolsheviks and fascists so much.

Gorbachev Considers Return to Politics

AU1810201293 Berlin DIE WELT in German 18 Oct 93 p 9

[Interview with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by Manfred Rowold; place and date not given: "Gorbachev: I Am Against a New Witch Hunt"]

[Text] [Rowold] Mikhail Sergeyevich, you reportedly said you are ready "to save Russia." Does this mean that you are planning a political comeback, that you want to run for the presidential elections?

[Gorbachev] I believe that I have, once again, been incorrectly quoted. I said that if a situation should arise wherein Russia must be saved, we are all obligated to set everything else aside. Of course, I also apply this to myself. Until 3-4 October I was firmly determined not to make any claim to any political offices. However, after 3-4 October we live in a different country. We saw what our authorities really are like. We saw that the people's dissatisfaction with the reforms has broken out. Everything that happened was not simply a struggle between Yeltsin, Rutskoy, and Khasbulatov—they are one and the same. In this environment everything began because the course they introduced in January 1992 is heading toward disaster.

[Rowold] Where do you see the disaster?

[Gorbachev] Of course, the economy is the most important thing—the economy and what has happened to it because of the shock therapy. However, what is going to happen to further reform in the Russian Federation is no less important. And, finally, there is no progress as regards the CIS. All these are blows against the people, against the reforms, against all of Europe. Everyone is affected by that. Even you in Europe. Thus, it is a crisis of politics. However, what happened on 3-4 October—when our authorities did not even shy away from being dragged into this bloodshed, into this bloody massacre—forces us all, including myself, to think about that very seriously. This is what I am doing at the moment. I will come to an appropriate decision.

[Rowold] Thus, you are thinking of running for the elections, after all?

[Gorbachev] No. The point is what has happened to the country and what the potential scenarios for development are. However, of course, I also have to think about my role in that.

[Rowold] If you do no want to run, then what do you want to do?

[Gorbachev] This does not rule out that I could intervene in the political process. However, I have not yet made this decision.

[Rowold] "Intervene in the political process"—would this mean running for the elections?

[Gorbachev] That too.

[Rowold] What other kind of political intervention are you considering?

[Gorbachev] I could belong to one of the other political blocks, I would cooperate with some political group or another. I could also present my analyses, my conclusions in the interest of this block or that group, but also for all the country's citizens. Right now I am nearer to this type of influence than to a candidacy in the parliamentary or presidential elections. For the time being, Gorbachev is his own party. One can hardly call this a block, but it would be a party.

[Rowold] And where do you see your allies?

[Gorbachev] I am also thinking about that. The problem of elections has now appeared on the horizon. The process of associating, of forming alliances, of clarifying positions has been accelerated.

I feel close to the goals linked to a continuation of the reforms. I do not agree with those who want to climb down, to turn back. This would be completely unacceptable for me. I am for reforming the Federation, with the goal of not weakening this federation but of further strengthening and consolidating Russia as a federative state. I am for profound economic reform, so that all forms of property are guaranteed by law, so that the law gives the people the opportunity to make decisions themselves and to exercise corresponding economic arrangements. I am also in favor of political pluralism, and, therefore, I am very worried when I hear about the latest Russian Government steps to restrict this freedom. I see this as an attempt to get rid of potential opposition, with the excuse of combating extremism.

[Rowold] Is it not legitimate to protect reforms against extremists?

[Gorbachev] I cannot accept it when measures are taken that are aimed against pro-fascist or extremist press organs and yet also affect other newspapers. These press organs are critical, but they reflect the interest of a certain strata of the population. This is an alarming signal to me. I am against pursuing something akin to a witch hunt here again, and oppressing anyone who thinks differently. Many things remind me of Bolshevik methods and the Communists acting under totalitarian regimes. I cannot agree with that. I want to call a spade a spade. Freedom and respect for human rights has to stand above all.

I cannot justify what we saw on 4 October—that the White House was attacked—for any purpose. Was this a struggle against political opponents, against Rutskoy and Khasbulatov? Even in this case, such a political struggle would have been completely unacceptable. However, apart from them, there were many hundreds of deputies, staff, helpers, journalists, and women in there. The people will never forget something like that. And I cannot accept justifications, because on the morning of 4 October the situation in Moscow was stable and under control. The problem should and could have been settled politically. These considerations might help you to understand to which political block I am closest.

[Rowold] Two years ago we saw the crumbling of the Soviet Union, which was a tragic development for you. Now it seems that the idea of reestablishing the Soviet Union is still very much alive. How do you assess this political movement?

[Gorbachev] I simply want to praise Mr. Gorbachev, who said at that time that the crumbling of the state is an evil, an evil for the people. Because everyone, all the families spread over the territory of the Soviet Union, are linked to one another. They cannot make do without each other. The economies of all republics are so closely interwoven. The cultures, too, are closely linked, they have affected one another for centuries. Science is also a unified system, and the same goes for education and the Army. There are no borders in the Soviet Union. Therefore, I claimed: It will simply not be possible to take us apart, to separate us. I do not know anybody who would be able to separate us. Now there is enormous pressure, especially from below, for unification. I repeat again: As long as the politicians responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union are in power, there will always be excuses to stop this process. They can agree on a unified economic mechanism, a unified regulation of finances, of prices—but if there is a lack of will for making this process positive, there will always exist many problems and obstacles. Therefore, one now needs a clear position and the corresponding will to see the objective needs, which is, that these states cannot live normally without cooperation.

Politics deliberately lags behind the thoughts of the people. I would like to judge this policy via your newspaper. My verdict is that these politicians are simply afraid of faster, closer cooperation. Because in this case they would have to accept responsibility for the fact that they destroyed the Soviet Union even though the Soviet Union was already in the last stages of reform. Therefore, I am certain: There will be a union—an alliance, a union, or some such entity; the name does not matter. It will be a new entity that will reflect new realities. These new realities consist of the fact that there are independent states in it. This must be taken into account.

[Rowold] You have been accused of having considered the CPSU as reformable and a potential engine of democratization. What role should and can Communism still play in Russia?

[Gorbachev] Such considerations are superficial and speculative. I was in Greece recently, and there they have been saying for a very long time: Everything is flowing, everything is moving. If you take quotes from me from 1985, or 1986, 1987, 1989, and then 1990, perhaps from this year—then you can say: What kind of Gorbachev is that? Where is the real, the true Gorbachev? But it is wonderful that Gorbachev—as it turns out—is able to take in the realities of life and to correct his own views and his own actions. If, in 1985, a reformer had not come to power as general secretary, the reforms would not have been started. In a totalitarian regime reforms can be started only from above. Everything that begins from below is oppressed and crushed. However, reforms began, and the only precondition for that was that these reforms were initiated within the party and by the party leadership itself. This could not have been done differently. Then you have to observe how the views of the leaders changed and how the conflicts within the CPSU increased, which cliques developed and struggled against each other. Some were for reforms, others for maintaining the old system, the totalitarian regime, and their own power. It was probably Gorbachev's strength that he continued to head this party and, at the same time, enforced reforms—step by step so as not to drag the country into a bloody conflict.

[Rowold] But seriously: Could the Soviet Union really have been saved?

[Gorbachev] In the months before August 1991 we had the draft of a new union treaty, which was on the point of being signed. We also had an anti-crisis program that was supported by everyone except for the Baltic Republics, and on 26 July we confirmed the project for a new party program at a Central Committee plenum. In November a new party congress was supposed to take place. This means that at that time at least five parties would have left the CPSU. At that time, it was no longer one party, it was a block of political movements that struggled against one another.

[Rowold] And how should Russia orient itself today?

[Gorbachev] Socialist, liberal, Christian, or conservative values exist in every country, in every society. Depending on the stage of development, some values or others are stressed. For the future there is not a choice between capitalism and socialism, but the issue is a synthesis of the experiences we have accumulated. This synthesis will include that which has brought forth the liberal idea. However, even the liberals have gained much from the socialists as regards the social program and the social protection of people. We also need fundamental Christian values in building the new civilization. I am sure that we are moving toward a new civilization.

[Rowold] The West supports Yeltsin in this conflict almost as vigorously as they supported you during your office term. What is the West doing wrong? Does it not assess the situation correctly?

[Gorbachev] The West lacks understanding for the fact that the struggle between Yeltsin, Rutskoy, and Khasbulatov is only superficial. Rutskoy and Khasbulatov have moved close to people like Anpilov and the "National Salvation Front." This is precisely the picture that the Russian leadership wants to impress on the citizens: I am Yeltsin, and on the other side there is Anpilov and the Anpilov nuisance—and Rutskoy and Khasbulatov have joined him. Then the people are supposed to make their choice. Well, in this case I would say: Yes, then I would also be for Yeltsin and not for Anpilov.

[Rowold] But this extreme polarization exists. Do you think it is artificial?

[Gorbachev] This is not the actual problem. I mentioned the problem right at the beginning: Yeltsin, as well as Khasbulatov and Rutskoy, are responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union. As is known, the Russian Supreme Soviet voted for Yeltsin and Gaydar's shock therapy. Yeltsin also got special powers from the Supreme Soviet. Suddenly it turns out that they have become implacable enemies. But this is not true: They are one and the same. Now they must be taken to task for what they have done with the country. They themselves do not have the courage to admit that. Therefore, they have forced this conflict on us for the past nine months. Since March of this year I have been saying that the way out should be sought in early elections. And after Rutskoy and Khasbulatov approached the "National Salvation Front" and people such as Anpilov, I stated that I have sympathetic feelings neither for one nor the other. They must simply disappear as a result of new elections.

Thus, the West does not see the whole picture. The nature of what is happening in our country, the roots of the tragic events consist of the fact that mass displeasure has erupted throughout society; an uncomfortable feeling about the way in which reforms are implemented in Russia.

[Rowold] Do you believe that the April referendum with its positive result for Yeltsin's economic policy is outdated now?

[Gorbachev] I am of a different opinion, not just now but already at that time. My opinion of the referendum is known. Even the most favorable question for the president showed that about 40 regions and 40 percent of the people did not support him. Yes, most people came out in favor of him. But, first of all, 30 million people did not go to the referendum—in our country it is different than in the United States. If people in our country do not vote, this signifies a negative attitude. Second, those who did go to the referendum were split. How do the president and his team want to continue their economic policy in view of this split in the society? However, the president and his team needed a different conclusion, namely that they won. Therefore, everything had to be continued by force.

Their formula at that time was: The point is not the results, the point is their interpretation. Therefore, they interpreted the result: They said they had received a mandate for further determined action, without having to consider the moods in the Supreme Soviet, among opposition forces, etc. This was their mistake, which has led to this tragedy.

[Rowold] Without you, without your policy of perestroyka, today's Russia would be inconceivable. Do you not feel partially responsible for what happens today?

[Gorbachev] If I did not feel partially responsible, if I had no ethics and no conscience as a human being, I would be leading a wonderful life now—because then I would just travel around the world, give speeches, and write books. But I do not do that. I am worried about how things, once initiated, will end. I see that my concerns about the reforms and the new way of thinking, and the developments in Europe after the confrontation, are not liked by all politicians, neither here nor abroad.

Some even say that Mikhail should be a bit more quiet. But I believe that they should all be more active, because today things are such that we are lagging behind in politics. This means losses for Russia and for the world. Therefore, I will continue to speak frankly in the future.

[Rowold] If you could go back to 1985, the year you came to power, what would you do?

[Gorbachev] I would not give up my main decision. However, with all the experiences that I have now, I would, of course, do many things in a more timely manner and doubtlessly better. I do not claim the position of God for me. I am certainly self-critical.

[Rowold] If I understand you correctly, you do not see any democracy in Russia at the moment....

[Gorbachev] We still have a long way to a democratic rule-of-law state. Some points are quite important: the rule of law, bourgeois society, glasnost, publicity, and a reliable protection of freedom and human rights.

[Rowold] Concerning freedom. Does Russia now have too much of it after the many years of a lack thereof?

[Gorbachev] You know, Russia received a large dividend of freedom, and it felt slightly dizzy. But now comes the sobering. One begins to think more calmly and to understand.

In the past they said in our country: Democracy does not mean that everything is permitted, does not mean anarchy. Democracy means law and a certain system of state and social institutions. This is the only way in which man finds security. We must still learn to understand all this. However, the people will not simply give up their freedom and renounce democracy; even though I also hear that this democracy should go to the devil, because it is in a bad state when there are so many criminals. One needs order, and this presupposes the protection of man and his rights.

Archive Service Denies Selling Documents to Foreign Countries

LD1710103493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Rumors that Russia's main archive service is involved in selling to foreign countries authentic documents of historical importance are unfounded. This is what Professor Rudolf Pikhoya, head of the archive service, told journalists. Documents of this sort have never been for sale and, at the same time, television and film studios make use of the originals. Naturally, what the studios pay the archive service is a sizeable source of income. The fact is that the Russian archive service receives only a third of the funding it needs from the government.

Election Issues

Yeltsin Aide Medvedev Discusses Regional Elections

LD1810163493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] President Yeltsin is due to issue a decree to cut by two years the term of regional parliaments from the current four and five-year terms, head of the administration's department for territorial management, Nikolay Medvedev, told a news conference in Moscow on Monday [18 October].

He believes regional elections must be held more often in the interim period of transition to a democratic society.

The authors of the decree propose that regional parliaments be made up of about 50 deputies instead of the current 150-300.

Medvedev says regional legislators should have the leverage to oust a regional administrator for breach of the Russian Constitution or Russian Federation's laws, but not on political grounds. Yeltsin wants regional elections to be held between December and next March.

So far, as many as 18 regional parliaments have dissolved themselves: One in the republic of Sakha (Yakutia), 15 in the regions, and two in autonomous territories.

Sergey Samoilov, Medvedev's deputy, meanwhile said that Yeltsin might issue separate decrees to dissolve those regional councils which rally behind the dissolved federal parliament. These include local councils of the Belgorod, Tambov, and Novosibirsk regions.

Comments on Presidential Elections

LD1810154693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—Real power in regions is being held by the heads of local administrations, according to Nikolay Medvedev, head of the directorate of the administration of the Russian president.

However, speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Monday [18 October], Medvedev admitted however that in some regions local councils still exist, at least formally. "They are trying to influence the situation and in some places are acting secretly," he said.

Medvedev said that the Federal Commission for Legislative Reform, of which he is a member, has prepared all materials for draft decrees determining the structure of legislative bodies of power in regions. He believes that during the transitional period they should be elected for two years. Medvedev also added that recent presidential decrees and decisions do not violate the Federal Treaty.

He warned against attempts to turn elections to a Federal Assembly and local bodies of power into a "goal in itself." Rather, they should serve the purpose of strengthening democracy in Russia, Medvedev stressed.

He said "the majority of republics are ready and are conducting a pre-election campaign in an organised manner. In regions and territories this process is proceeding more contradictory." Some councils would like to use the present situation in order to "set up new power structures as actively as possible," Medvedev said.

Speaking about presidential election, Medvedev said there have been many requests to the president "to withdraw his decision to hold elections on June 12." Medvedev, who shares these requests, said "Boris Yeltsin has already been elected to presidency twice."

Comments on Chechen Actions

LD1810153093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By Aleksandr Shkirando; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] At today's news conference in Moscow, Nikolay Medvedev, head of the directorate for work with regions in the administration of the Russian president, said that the forthcoming elections to federal and local authorities were not an end in itself but a serious step toward strengthening democracy and creating normal conditions for steering the country out of an economic dead end. [passage omitted]

Answering a question from the Ostankino TV Company on whether the presidential administration still regards Chechnya as a constituent part of the Russian Federation, Nikolay Medvedev replied:

[Medvedev] As to whether Chechnya is a constituent part of the Russian Federation, the only possible answer is that it certainly is. Another matter is those processes that are currently underway there. The president has not given any re-assessment on the matter. The assessments were given by the congress, which said that the Russian authorities considered the actions of the local authorities and all the other goings-on there illegal. So far, at least officially, there have been no alternative assessments from the president.

Work of Electoral Commission Described

PM1810141193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "Central Electoral Commission: Lists May Be Revised"]

[Text] Making forecasts about the election campaign now underway is like trying to predict the fall weather. The situation is too changeable, and the number of possible nuances affecting its progress too great.

All that can be mentioned more or less definitively are the principles for putting forward candidates from one of the strongest electoral blocs—"Russia's Choice." You will recall that its leaders are Yegor Gaydar, Boris Fedorov, Andrey Kozyrev, and other representatives of the president's "team."

The "Russia's Choice" election strategy consists in the quest for and nomination of candidates capable of making up a professional parliament. The "hunt" for them is on not only in the center but also in the regions. The list of candidates for "Russia's Choice" is expected to be less inspiring than previously thought. But this bloc has every chance of forming a majority in parliament (up to 60 percent).

Now a word about organizational matters. These are numerous, and the Central Electoral Commission is working, as they say, around the clock. No new candidates, apart from those from Zhirinovskiy's party, have registered so far. But it is expected that electoral associations, parties, and movements will join the line to register their candidates in two or three days' time.

Given that the organization and holding of the elections is still giving rise to many questions, the Central Electoral Commission is preparing the publication of special bulletins which will contain explanations, so to speak, for all aspects of the election campaign. A discussion of materials for two-mandate districts is going on in Central Electoral Commission working groups right now, and it is expected that a decision will be taken next weekend.

Obviously, in the course of the election campaign we will witness many changes and additions. No sooner, for instance, had the Ministry of Justice managed to publish the list of federal parties, movements, and associations entitled to participate in the elections than protests were launched by many organizations left "overboard." It is most probable, as the Central Electoral Commission believes, that the list will be altered slightly.

Finally, proposals regarding yet one more round of elections—the presidential elections—are being heard ever more intelligibly. Future events will demonstrate just how serious this is. As for the referendum on the Constitution, it will probably be conducted only on its basic provisions, whereas it will be adopted in its entirety by the new parliament, where, it has to be assumed, real professionals will be at work.

Commission Reviews Regulations on Federation Council Elections

LD1810171093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—The regulations on the election of deputies to a Federation Council (Upper Chamber of a new parliament) signed by President Boris Yeltsin on October 11 came to the Central Electoral Commission at long last.

The regulations have become a must for lawyers vested with great powers, since they shoulder all work on organising and conducting the election campaign. They are painstakingly study this legal document, although it is clear even now that its articles largely duplicate the regulations on the election of deputies to a State Duma (Lower Chamber of a new parliament).

The key question of the regulations is how candidates for the Federation Council should be nominated. Andrey Beloborodov, member of the Central Electoral Commission and group head on cooperation with regions, told ITAR-TASS about this procedure.

"No more than two legislators can be elected to the Upper Chamber from each member of the federation," he explained, noting at the same time that "the regulations on the election do not limit the number of nominees".

A group of Russians, living together with their would-be candidate in the same member republic of the Russian Federation or region and comprising no less than one per cent from all the registered voters there, may nominate him for the Federation Council.

A would-be candidate may be nominated for the Federation Council also by electoral associations. What is meant under this name? These are regional branches of nation-wide political parties and nation-wide political movements, the charters of which are registered by the Justice Ministry, as well as political movements of the federation's members, the charters of which are registered by local bodies of justice.

A bloc of non-government associations, formed for the period of elections, also may nominate a candidate for the Federation Council, Beloborodov continued.

A party or a political movement may not act as an independent electoral association if it is a member of a bloc.

"Provinces should remember another important provision of the regulations on the election of deputies to the Federation Council: Participation of non-government associations in the election campaign to the State Duma is not an obstacle to participation in the election campaign to the Federation Council," Beloborodov stressed.

Ryabov Against Extending Signature-Gathering Period

LD1810221893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer Aleksandr Shashkov] Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission for elections to the Federal Assembly, has spoken against extending the time limits for submitting to the Central Electoral Commission the 100,000 signatures that political parties and blocs have to gather no later than 35 days before the elections. According to Ryabov, the time limits are tough but quite acceptable for those organizations that enjoy prestige with the public.

Federal Commission To Examine Presidential Decrees

LD1810194093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] A Federative Commission led by Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray is to examine the drafts of two presidential decrees on Tuesday [19 October]—rules for local governing bodies and guidelines for local elections.

Chairman of the Law-Making Commission under the Russian President Mikhail Mityukov has told Interfax that two more documents will also come under discussion - guidelines for elections to the representative branches of Federation Constituent Members (republics excluded) and a scheme on elections to local self-governing bodies.

Mityukov noted that his commission could work better if the president issued an instruction that would regulate its activity and endorse its staff. He blamed the delay with such an instruction on the State Legal Department's leadership, arguing that the only job for the commission to do is to put the final touches to the bills, drafted by the former Supreme Soviet and work out rules of procedure for the Federal Assembly and its chambers. Mityukov objected to such narrowing of his commission's activity.

He also announced that he would run for Federative Assembly's State Duma from the Russia's Choice bloc and from a one-mandate constituency in his native Khakasiya.

'Democratic Russia' Analyzes 'Russia's Choice' Congress

LD1810163393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The Council of Representatives of Democratic Russia met Sunday [17 October] night to discuss the outcome of the Russia's Choice electoral bloc congress that ended earlier that day.

It was as a result of the calls made by regional Democratic Russia's organizations for launching a new democratic movement that the congress was convened. Democratic Russia entered the bloc but its co-chairmen Gleb Yakunin and Lev Ponomarev were not elected to the list of candidates to the State Duma.

Gleb Yakunin described the voting as a failure. Vera Kriger, an activist of the movement, called for resignation of Democratic Russia's coordination council.

Yakunin thinks, however, that "what happened is not a tragedy." In his view, even though "pieces of flesh were torn from Democratic Russia, its bones are intact." He was confident that "Democratic Russia will come out stronger from the elections," whereas Russia's Choice will "collapse, for it is built on sand, not on a democratic foundation."

After the meeting, Lev Ponomarev told Interfax that Democratic Russia had made numerous concessions in the setting up of the bloc so as to maintain unity of the democratic movement and not allow anti-reform forces to score a success in the elections.

Shakhray on Structure, Goals of 'Unity and Accord Party'

PM1810134993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Tatyana Akkuratova report: "'Shakhray's 'Party' Opposed to Joining Blocs"]

[Text] The constituent conference and congress of the Russian Unity and Accord Party will be held in Novgorod at the weekend. This was announced by Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, one of the initiators of its creation.

The new party does not intend to join any of the blocs of a democratic orientation, including the "Russia's Choice" bloc. According to Shakhray, the party, which aims to be able to consider itself as the party of the regions, which is how it was conceived, is obliged to remain free of radicals, even very good ones. Its founders proceed from the premise that today there is not a single party with a sufficiently definite social support, and so they are taking the social and state function of uniting the economic and political interests of the regions with all-Russian interests as the basis of the activity of the Russian Unity and Accord Party. In order to exist and develop, any state, and particularly a federative one, Shakhray believes, must have political mechanisms that will act as pivots of this state and ensure political self-tuning.

The founders envisage the party as small and structured purely on the basis of individual membership. Regional organizations—kray, oblast, and republic organizations with extensive autonomy—will be its support. Therefore there should be a minimum of names of Moscow politicians on the list of candidates—they are no longer greeted with enthusiasm in the regions. And joining blocs inevitably increases these lists, and thus the party's identity is lost.

Nevertheless, the leader of the new party believes, all social associations and parties of a democratic orientation should conclude an alliance to coordinate efforts at the elections for districts with the majority system.

Substantial interest is being shown in "Shakhray's party" by the regions—it is expected that the majority of North Caucasian, Volga Region, and Siberian republics will be represented at the conference in Novgorod.

Chernomyrdin Nominated for Assembly

LD1810210693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin tops the list of candidates to the Federal Assembly's State Duma, nominated by the Russian Unity and Concord [Accord] Party (known as Shakhray's party—IF) at its session in Moscow on Monday [18 October]. He will run for Duma from the Orenburg constituency.

The Premier's reaction to his nomination is yet to come.

Meanwhile, as the President's Adviser Sergey Stankevich has told Interfax, the Premier shows interest in the party and shares its basic goals and tasks.

Christian Democrats List Zorkin as Candidate

LD1810223293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Chairman of Russia's Christian Democratic Movement Viktor Aksyushtis, a former Supreme Soviet deputy, believes that a future Russian parliament will be illegitimate, but his movement, in his words, will take part in elections. Addressing newsmen in Moscow on Monday [18 October], he reported that ex-deputy Yuriy Vlasov, an Olympic weight-lifting champion, topped the list of candidates nominated by the Christian Democrats. Constitutional Court member Valeriy Zorkin stands second and Aksyushtis himself comes third on the list.

Aksyushtis told Interfax that on Sunday Zorkin verbally consented to run for the Federal Assembly from the Christian Democrats.

Aksyushtis himself is third on the list.

He also reported that Zorkin was going to clear up the procedural issues related to his status as a Constitutional Court member since the Court had been only suspended rather than dissolved.

According to Aksyushtis, the movement's election platform will be national concord, social justice, real and effective economic reforms, a return to traditional Russian values, and the construction of a law-abiding society.

He said that new approaches and new Christianity-Oriented leaders are essential if a civil war is to be avoided in Russia.

The Christian Democrat leader predicts that Russia's Choice Democratic Bloc will gain up to 20 percent of the vote, and so will the opposition.

As announced earlier, Zorkin would run for the Federal Assembly from the Agrarian Party. However, as a spokesman for the Constitutional Court has told Interfax, the ex-Court Chairman was entered on the list without his consent.

Zorkin Intends To Take No Part in Political Activities

LD1810200393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Valeriy Zorkin, the former chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court (CC), was unaware of being included in the list of Agrarian Party candidates for the forthcoming parliamentary election, the CC press service told Interfax. The service said Zorkin had been listed at the suggestion of CC judge Viktor Luchin.

Luchin did mean to ask the former CC chairman for his consent, but "Zorkin remains a member of the Constitutional Court and still intends to take no part in any political activities," the service said. Earlier on, five organizations offered to nominate Zorkin, but he refused. The Agrarian Party did not even ask him, the service said.

'Women of Russia' Prepare Electoral List

PM1810140793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Tatyana Khudyakova report: "Women Conclude 'Triple' Alliance On Eve of Elections"]

[Text] A rather sensational announcement was made by the Russian Women's League [RWL] 14 October: Three organizations—the RWL, the League of Women Entrepreneurs, and the League of Navy Women—had united to form the "Women of Russia" political movement, had registered it at the Justice Ministry, and were already finalizing their electoral list. Possible candidates include female representatives of the executive.

Although women's regional political parties do exist in Russia, they have not been able either to "recruit" any meaningful "contingent" to their ranks or to elaborate any attractive programs. This is why the movement that has now been announced is setting itself the task of winning seats in the new parliament—on behalf of all Russian women, as it were.

As RWL Chairman Alevtina Fedulova put it, signatures are already being collected (at least 100,000 will be needed), and final work is being done on policy documents and appeals to local women's publications to get actively involved in the election campaign with the dual task of persuading women voters to vote for women candidates and collecting funds for them. According to some reports, each candidate will have to cough up the tidy sum of 10 million rubles for the campaign—any less will not be practicable.

The new political movement's main slogan—"there is no democracy without women"—has been dictated by a desire to change the status of Russian women and help them to take their rightful place in the running of society and to open up access to the corridors of power, which are currently full of men exclusively.

In the opinion of many experts women can only exert a real influence on political decisions when their representation reaches at least 30 percent. Of course, nobody is expecting that kind of success today, but it would be wrong to miss any opportunity. Moreover, the ploy of banking on "reeducating" many political parties, so that sooner or later they recognize the need to nominate women for parliament through party channels, looks more promising.

Unfortunately, this will not happen even in the near future. But the "Women of Russia" are now making their presence felt and do not intend to lose.

Election Activities of Political Blocs Viewed

LD1810145693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—The process of forming election blocs ahead of the general elections scheduled for December 11-12 became more active in the past three days.

The political forces which hope to provide backing for the president and the government in the new parliament took efforts to finalise their organisational shaping at the weekend. The constituent congresses of the "Russia's Choice" bloc and the Party of Russian Unity and Concord [Accord] were held last Saturday and Sunday [16-17 October].

"Russia's Choice" brought together the bulk of politicians closest to the president, including most of the government members, among whom are Yegor Gaydar who is now the leader of the bloc and the movement of the same name. Before the congress the Russia's Choice movement took shape in different regions of the Federation. Apart from individual members, the movement incorporates Yuriy Chernenko's Peasant Party of Russia, Pavel Bunich's Party of Democratic Initiative and a rump of the Republican Party of the Russian Federation led by Petr Filippov.

Many initiators of the Russia's Choice movement said from the outset that it was necessary to create a movement in which the decisions made by the leaders would be binding on the collective members. However, the radical leaders of the Democratic Russia Movement were categorically opposed to this and demanded that a pre-election bloc should be formed. As a result, the Russia's Choice movement was eventually created as the main force in the bloc of the same name of which the Democratic Russia Movement has also chosen to become a part.

It is now clear that the Russia's Choice movement has been formed as the basis of the future "presidential party". The bloc has every chance of scoring a considerable number of votes at the elections. The bloc has already named such prominent politicians as Yegor Gaydar, Vladimir Shumeyko, Anatoliy Chubays, Andrey Kozyrev and Mikhail Poltoranin as its candidates for the Federal Assembly. All of them have very good chances of being elected to the new parliament.

Russia's Choice will certainly be the biggest faction in the State Duma even though it cannot be said with certainty at this moment that it will have a majority of mandates. In this event, the deputies from the presidential party will need allies. One such ally is the Party of Russian Unity and Concord, created by Sergey Shakhray. The party's constituent congress took place in Novgorod.

A young promising politician and ranking jurist, Sergey Shakhray has always been a close comrade-in-arms of President Yeltsin. Now he has decided to act on his own and not as a member of Russia's Choice. This points to certain political ambitions of the vice-premier on the one hand, and to his own tactics of holding the election campaign on the other. Sergey Shakhray has decided to play "a regional card" well aware that policy is now being made not only in Moscow.

The Party of Russian Unity and Concord will stand for the rights of regions and integrate their interests as those of the Russian state as a whole.

Sergey Shakhray has succeeded in attracting to his team some major politicians known across Russia such as the presidential adviser Sergey Stankevich and former chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ramazan Abdulatipov. The list of candidates the Shakhray party is going to nominate has good chances in the upcoming elections.

The congress of the Democratic Party of Russia had no surprises to offer at its congress last Friday [15 October]. The Nikolay Travkin party announced six months ago that it would act on its own in the new elections and will not join any bloc. At its congress on Friday the party confirmed its stand. The Democratic Party of Russia is likely to clear the 5 per cent barrier because it has a ramified regional structure and his been preparing for the elections for the past twelve months.

Orthodox Church Orders Priests To Stay Out of Parliament

PM1810135593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Open letter from Patriarch Aleksiy of Moscow and All Russia and members of the Holy Synod: "Church Not Taking Part in Elections"]

[Text] The mass media have already reported that the Russian Orthodox Church has declined to take part in the upcoming elections. Readers naturally want to know about the details regarding such a statement.

We draw your readers' attention to the following extract from the record of the proceedings of the session of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church held on 8 October 1993.

At the session of the Holy Synod, under the chairmanship of the Patriarch and with the participation of Right Reverend Hierarchs who had come to the Troitsa-Sergiyeva Monastery to commemorate Our Venerable and Evangelizing Father Sergiy, Abbot of Radonezh, opinions were expressed on the feasibility of priests' taking part in elections to organs of representative authority.

1. Mindful that work in certain organs of representative authority, above all at federal level, will be conducted on

a permanent basis or will demand full investment of time, which in the event of his election, precludes the possibility of a priest's performing the pastoral duties laid on him by God;

and aware that such work by priests in the top organs of state power has already caused embarrassment and division among priests;

we resolve to order priests to refrain from taking part in elections as candidate deputies for organs of representative authority operating on a permanent basis, above all those at federal level.

2. In the event of their nomination for election to organs of power which do not envisage paid or full-time work, individual priests are to be guided by the previously adopted ruling of the Supreme Council [Arkhiyereyskiy Sobor] and the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church.

3. Priests who do not submit to this ruling are to be deprived of holy orders as disobedient to ecclesiastical writ under the canon law of the Orthodox Church.

[Signed] Patriarch Aleksiy of Moscow and All Russia
Members of the Holy Synod

Expert Says Military, Clergy Should Not Be Deputies

PM1910091193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 first Edition p 2

[Irina Demchenko report: "Servicemen Should Not Stand for Parliament"]

[Text] The Omsk regional branch of the "Russia's Choice" electoral bloc led by Yegor Gaydar has nominated its candidate for deputy. It is Militia Major General Viktor Lotkov, chief of the oblast administration internal affairs administration. An RIA report specifies further that V. Lotkov was a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet deputy, well known for his democratic views.

We all know that far from all uniformed people's elected representatives can boast such a reputation. The opposite is more likely to be true: A significant proportion of servicemen-deputies were loyal to the aggressively conservative majority of the former Union and Russian parliaments.

The clause on electing deputies to the State Duma will contain no restrictions on candidates and this, in the opinion of Vladimir Tumanov, a famous expert in the sphere of constitutional law, is a major error which we are repeating once again. Tumanov considers it absolutely vital to agree—as is done in other countries—that people of certain professions, in particular the military, internal affairs and security organ personnel, and the clergy, cannot stand for parliament by dint of the special nature of their work. He also noted that in states with a developed democracy, persons under investigation are also banned from standing for election to representative organs of power.

I will remind you that the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church has recommended that clergymen refrain from participating in the Federal Assembly elections under threat of being unfrocked. Proceeding from this decision by the Orthodox Church's top body, Metropolitan Yuvenaliy this week suggested that Father Gleb Yakunin, co-chairman of the "Democratic Russia" Movement, make his position clear on the question of putting forward his own candidacy for the federal parliamentary elections. Gleb Yakunin is on the list of the very same bloc from which Major General Lotkov is being nominated.

Communists Score Government Election Statute

PM1810134193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 8

[Open letter from Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party Central Executive Committee; Aleksandr Shabanov, chairman of the Moscow Communist Party Executive Committee; and Yuriy Belov, chairman of the St. Petersburg Communist Party Executive Committee: "Communists Have a Right to a Place in Parliament"]

[Text] Following the tragic events that took place in Moscow on the night of 3-4 October, the legal opposition in the country has been practically eliminated. After all, it can exist solely on the basis of representative institutions, a free press, and political parties. The "suspension" of a number of these has practically driven the opposition underground, because no repression can stop the activity of those who are acting through conviction. Depriving a considerable section of society of the opportunity to participate normally in political life leads, on the one hand, to the emergence of "internal emigration," and on the other hand to an escalation of violence against dissidents.

Another task of the present authorities, we must suppose, is to restore at least a semblance of democracy. An attempt is being made to address this problem through fresh elections. But in state-of-emergency conditions and the absence of a legal opposition, the election results are essentially predetermined in favor of those who designate and set the rules, organize and monitor the elections, and count up the results.

From our point of view, what reasons are there for participating in the elections? There are two: Exploiting the election campaign first of all to reorganize the opposition and regroup its forces in new electoral blocs, thereby acquiring new legitimacy, and then to acquire broader platforms for campaigning and propaganda than exist at the present time.

How far is all this realistic?

The Statute on Elections has been composed in such a way that the establishment of a new bloc of real and not pseudo-opposition forces is extremely difficult. The only parties and public associations allowed to take part in the elections are those that have already been registered and have not been "suspended," and whose rules envisage participation in federal organs. Reports from deep within the government already indicate that the breakneck timetable for the elections is dictated by the need to prevent the opposition from regrouping its forces.

Nevertheless we intend to use all accessible means to campaign for the freest and most democratic elections possible for the supreme organ of legislative power and at the same time hold a referendum on the advisability of keeping the post of president, thereby demonstrating that the present regime is absolutely incapable of holding these elections and indeed does not desire to do so.

Research Center Head Evaluates Election Campaign

PM1810133393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Anatoliy Antonov, head of the Center for Social-Strategic Research, under the rubric "Russia: Elections in the Offing": "Democrats Have the Overwhelming Advantage at the Moment"]

[Text] The situation has fundamentally changed following the tragic events in Moscow. I mean not only the elimination of the bulwark of conservatism, but the start of the desovietization of the country and changes throughout the power structure. This is not an evil or good intention on someone's part, but an urgent necessity. The replacement of the soviets with new, more effective organs of power is dictated by objective necessity, since the soviet form of statehood has long since ceased to be equal to the real processes in society and the changes in the economy and social structure. So we should be talking not just about another election campaign, but about a unique situation, and general elections are seen to be the way out of this situation.

Incidentally, the calling of elections in periods of critical political situations is pretty much a proven method in world political practice, which, as a rule, helps to resolve a crisis.

The analysts at our center feared that the country's new supreme representative organ might turn out to be illegitimate if the elections are ignored by a considerable number of Russian regions or are boycotted by political parties of the opposition and centrist bloc, whose leaders gave prior notice of this. In the new situation these fears evaporated. The vast majority of territories, except Chechnya, confirmed their desire to participate in the Federal Assembly elections and started to form their own electoral commissions. All political parties intend to participate in the elections, including the centrists, who were having their doubts. Moreover, according to our information, leaders and activists of suspended parties will be trying to get their people into the Federal Assembly in single-seat districts. So the elections will be pretty representative and comprehensive. Consequently, the new supreme organ of power will represent the main strata of the population.

There is the fear, though, that few voters will turn out in some regions (I will refrain from naming them), but the 25-percent mark set by the Statute on Elections will probably be exceeded in all regions. Society has undergone rather acute politicization since the October events and the election battles will make it even more acute.

"Russia's Choice" turns out to be the best prepared of the existing political blocs. According to our assessments, it has the best chance of winning a majority in the new supreme representative organ of power. The Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms, the "Entrepreneurs for a New Russia" movement, and other democratic associations have good prospects. All in all, their majority could be overwhelming. I do not think the former "opposition" has any real chance: In the first place, since the bloodshed it caused, public opinion has swung sharply toward the president. Second, it will not be represented by its own largest parties, which are excluded from the election schedules. Third, it will find it difficult to get its candidates elected even in single-seat districts, although attitudes toward it vary from region to region. Democracy also has the best financial potential, it controls the media, and it is represented by well-known, authoritative people, who have already achieved real, tangible success in various spheres and can therefore expect the people to prefer them to the demagogues.

However, this is no cause for euphoria. There are two months to go yet before the elections, and there are many hidden obstacles (the continuing economic fragility, the inevitable problems of life, disagreements among the democrats) that could change the situation. Not radically, but not for the better either.

But one should not be put off by this. An opposition minority in parliament is necessary if one wants good-quality decisions. It contributes to consolidation and the easing of tension in society. Without a legal opposition we will have a illegal one—and that poses the danger of undeground activities, terrorist acts, and so on.

Clearly, the opposition will not have a decisive influence in the Federal Assembly, but it will be able to mitigate the inevitable flaws and extremes in the majority's policy. In the old parliament this role was played by the democrats. Now, it seems, we are going to have the opposite situation. Although, of course, the new majority will not behave in such an extremist manner. But flaws are inevitable. Such is the world practice of parliamentarianism. OK, let's learn it.

Economic Issues

Fedorov Writes on Economy's Progress, Outlook

PM1510200993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Boris Fedorov, vice premier and finance minister: "Those Who Lose Fight Against Inflation Will Lose Election Too"]

[Text] Elections and an election campaign are never a good thing for an economy. So the quicker they are over the better.

It is very important not to get bogged down yet again in the morass of populist election promises. At the same time, the quicker a competent parliament emerges, the faster equilibrium will be restored between the branches of power.

This year has been marked by the fact that most practical workers and theoreticians have finally realized that financial, monetary, and credit policy make up three-quarters of the state's economic policy.

People have sensed the importance of the ruble. Say what you like, 1993 has been far more stable than the previous year. Hardly anyone could accuse the government today of changing the rules too often. Enterprises were not allowed to mutually offset their debts through the printing of more money, circulating capital was not supplemented through the printing of more money, and technical credits and cash deliveries to CIS countries were stopped.

The Central Bank interest rate, which had remained unchanged from May 1992 through March 1993, was increased to 210 percent—in other words, by 100 percent. Rates on deposits to the Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population rose sharply. Soft loans were abolished as of 1 October 1993 (in other words, subsidies are not included in the budget). The system of compulsory sales of foreign currency (solely through the market) was altered in July. The ruble rate has been stable for more than four months (nobody could quite simply believe it).

The liberalization of coal, oil, grain, and bread prices has been continued. A system for subsequently indexing prices for certain other monopoly goods and services has been adopted. Import subsidies have been virtually eliminated—in other words, a single foreign currency rate is actually being applied.

Credit has been growing substantially more slowly this year than last. A government commission on credit policy has been at work: In the critical third quarter of last year Central Bank lending increased by 185 percent, whereas it has risen merely by 50 percent this year.

Despite all the difficulties, budget restrictions have been carried out and, so far, we are hitting our budget deficit target of 10 percent of GDP. For the first time, securities (state treasury bonds and gold certificates) have been used to fund the deficit.

In 1992 Russia felt for the first time like a real member of the world community—successful talks were held with the G-7, and the first IMF and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development loans were received ($2.1 billion).

But the most important result, clearly, is that **the situation has settled down. We have started to understand it far better, and economic policy has gradually started to look sensible.**

But there have also been failures caused by excessive tardiness. The state apparatus is essentially working on the basis of old methods and, additionally, is being constantly eaten away by the unstoppable draining away of its most qualified staff (particularly, finance, credit, tax, and currency specialists) to the commercial sector. Instead of cutting the apparatus and sharply raising salaries, we are constantly creating unnecessary departments.

Under the circumstances, it has not yet been possible to carry out really radical changes, particularly in agriculture. As a result, we have been unable to reduce subsidies or the budget deficit as a whole as much as necessary. The sector-based [otraslevoy] part of the government often refuses to think about where the money comes from and fails to grasp the overall macroeconomic picture. **Cutting subsidies and inefficient spending as a whole is our immediate task.**

The mechanism of providing credit from centralized resources has not been changed and, as a result, repayment of such loans has been very poor. Many sectoral workers take the old view of centralized credits as a nonrepayable form of financing. Loans should undoubtedly be repaid, and purely budget expenditure should be in the budget. If we fail to elaborate a mechanism by the end of this year for providing loans and finance to the agro-industrial complex or for supplying the North, then 1994 could also be lost in this sense.

The Central Bank of Russia has not yet turned into a real central bank, and its monetary and credit policy leaves much to be desired. There is no flexible interest-rate policy, there is no normal system for refinancing commercial banks, many available levers of monetary and credit policy are not being utilized, and there is a virtual absence of the requisite banking supervision.

Despite numerous promises, no real measures were taken to combat the spread of the dollar economy [dollarizatsiya] in 1992. But it is heartening that the Central Bank of Russia recently did adopt a decision to prohibit cash transactions in foreign currency as of 1 January 1994. Apart from protecting the ruble, this measure also has a purely political importance. Moreover, it will provide an incentive for credit-card transactions. The main thing is that these words should not be forgotten, as has been the case in the past.

The nonpayment problem—although far less important in real terms than it was in 1992—is still very acute. A decision has been prepared on enforcing the conversion via commercial banks of deferred debt into bills of exchange with specific redemption dates. This means that, once the bill of exchange expires, bankruptcy proceedings can be instituted against the nonpayer.

The year 1994 will be a year of budget reform, including the separation of budgets and the transition to a new classification. The separation of budgets means the separation of income tax and profits tax—in other words, the federal parliament sets its taxes, and the parliament of a Federation component sets its taxes. But value-added tax will continue to be a federal tax with a single rate for all territories. Under our conditions it will be the source of some inevitable redistribution and subsidization. **There will be a transition from a unitary to a federal budget system.**

This system will, naturally, provide freedom of action for "strong" regions, which will have real budgets and will be able to end their demeaning trips to Moscow. "Weak" regions will receive subsidies at the 1993 level and be forced to gradually learn to live within their means.

The new budget system will even make it possible for nonpayer regions such as Bashkortostan, Tatarstan, and Yakutia to emerge with honor from their dead-end situation. Single-channel tax payments [odnokanalnost uplaty nalogov] are impermissible in a unified state. People can cite whatever documents as much as they like, but a transition to paying "dues" to the federal budget would mean the end of Russia. It is heartening that Bashkiria and Tataria have already taken measures to settle their 1993 debt to the federal budget, although the fundamental issues should be resolved in the 1994 budget.

The ruble zone remains a colossal problem. There are no opponents of economic and currency integration. Everyone advocates the creation of a large "common market" and the establishment of normal trading exchange between the former union republics. However, few people realize how complex this issue is. There are plenty of people in a hurry to recreate the USSR without so much as a backward glance at the economic realities. The most immediate threat is of the merging of monetary systems and of cash being shipped to other countries without any real convergence in their economies and without any real coordination in economic policies and practices. Such an ill-judged merger would be a disaster for Russia. If some people want to join our federation, that is another matter.

Foreign aid has never been and cannot now be a key factor in financial policy or, on the whole, in reform in Russia. At the same time, in the shape of new loans, investment, and debt deferments it can promote accelerated progress and ease the negative consequences of the transitional period. We need to abandon as quickly as possible the commodity and investment credits, which were entered into on a huge scale by Union and Russian Governments—those things are the concern of enterprises and companies. **Centralized imports should wither away completely.**

The role of the state is to provide purely financial credits to replenish currency reserves and solve the foreign debt problem. The year 1992 was marked by the development of the negotiating process with the Paris and London Clubs, but not by any putting of our own house in order. As a result, irresponsible statements were made about the desirability of writing off debts—in other words, virtually accepting for Russia the status of a helpless "third world" state. We cannot agree to that, all the more so as a refusal to make debt repayments is tantamount to cutting off new loans and investment.

We need a firm political will to keep the budget deficit within the limits of what is reasonable (4.6 trillion rubles in the fourth quarter), to continue tight restrictions on credit, and to ensure that the rate of decline in the ruble is approximately half the inflation rate. There is also now a real chance of achieving financial stabilization, and of reducing inflation to 15 percent a month by December and to 10 percent by next February. Only achievements of this sort will demonstrate that the policy is correct.

Those who lose the fight against inflation will lose the election too.

Gaydar: Potential for 'Popular' Measures 'Exhausted'

LD1510162093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar has said in an interview with an RIA correspondent that after the October events the Russian Government has come to face a situation in the economy where all potential for popular solutions has been completely exhausted. The vice premier did not specify which unpopular measures were about to hit the bank accounts of the Russian nationals. In all probability, the freeing of bread prices scheduled for 15 October is to be the first step in this policy.

'Totally Opposed' to Wage Freeze

LD1810213493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Russian First Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar has declared in an exclusive interview with Interfax that he is against a wage freeze now. He made it clear that he was not totally opposed to freezing wages, but said that "it would be impossible to freeze pay today or in the next few months."

Responsible for economic reform and overall economic policy in the government, Gaydar admitted a budget deficit and voiced concern at "sharply expanded state commitments." In his opinion, "there still are very high subsidies, import subsidies included, and exorbitant expenditures on easy-term seasonal and other credits. In general, the government spends too much on businesses support." According to Gaydar, it is in this sphere that a reduction in spending should be sought.

At the same time, he noted that the social bill could least of all be called excessive, more than that, some of its provisions are inadequate.

Government Decree Sets Up Privatization Commission

PM1810150793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 3

[Decree No. 1045 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government dated Moscow, 11 October and signed by Council of Ministers Chairman V. Chernomyrdin: "On the Formation of a Government Commission for the Utilization of Funds from the Program To Support Privatization and Structural Reforms in the Russian Federation"]

[Text] For the purposes of coordinating work for the utilization of funds from the program to support privatization and structural reforms in the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government decrees:

1. That a government Commission for the Utilization of Funds from the Program To Support Privatization and Structural Reforms in the Russian Federation (hereinafter the Commission) be formed, and that it comprise the following:

V.S. Chernomyrdin—chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government (chairman of the Commission);

A.B. Chubays—deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government and chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property (first deputy chairman of the Commission);

B.G. Fedorov—deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government and Russian Federation minister of finance (deputy chairman of the Commission);

A.N. Shokhin—deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government (deputy chairman of the Commission);

M.V. Boyko—general director of the "Russian Privatization Center" public and state fund;

D.V. Vasilyev—deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property;

Yu. V. Petrov—chairman of the State Investment Corporation;

A.O. Nichiporuk—adviser to the Russian Federation minister of finance;

P.S. Filippov—leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration Analytical Center for Social and Economic Policy (by consent).

The Commission will ensure that at least 75 percent of funds are channeled to support enterprises which have completed the privatization process, and that funds will be channeled into the regions which are most actively implementing the privatization of state and municipal enterprises.

2. Within the framework of work for the utilization of funds from the program to support privatization and structural reforms in the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property and the "Russian Privatization Center" public and state fund should ensure:

the creation of regional privatization centers offering technical assistance to enterprises which have completed the privatization process and to state and municipal enterprises undergoing privatization, with a view to setting up at least 10 such centers by 1 February 1994;

the coordination of work to organize regional funds for enterprises which are investing in enterprises which have completed the privatization process and in state and municipal enterprises undergoing privatization, with a view to organizing at least 10 such funds by 1 July 1994.

3. It is laid down that, within the framework of utilizing funds from the program to support privatization and structural reforms in the Russian Federation, the coordination of work to utilize loan funds from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development be exercised by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government

Ministry Forms Service for Settling Labor Conflicts

LD1810212693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct—The service for settling collective labor conflicts has been set up at the Russian Federation Labor Ministry. Its main tasks are to protect the rights and interests of employers and labor collectives when settling disputed issues, and also to study and eliminate causes of labor conflicts.

According to its head Vladimir Petrov, one of the first and foremost tasks of the new service lies in improving the normative base. The previous law on labor collectives was adopted in the former USSR and it did not create an effective mechanism for settling disagreements and resolving conflicts. A draft of the Russian law on this issue is at the moment being examined in associations of employers, trade unions, and executive power bodies, and it is highly unlikely to be adopted before next year.

According to Vladimir Petrov, adopting the decree by the Russian president on regulation of issues regarding the settlement of collective disputes could be a way out of such a situation. According to him, such a document can be adopted by the end of this year.

To date, 11 regional branches of the service are operating in most major economic areas. It is planned to significantly expand the network of regional branches in Russia next year. They will be set up in every oblast, kray, and republic.

Central Bank Moves To Stem Hard Currency Outflow

PM1810154793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Ivan Sidorov report under the "Money" rubric: "War Declared on Exchange-Control Dodgers"]

[Text] With a one-week gap between them, the Central Bank of Russia has made two fundamental decisions which have sharply increased the numbers of its "well-wishers" among holders of currency. The first concerns the removal of cash dollars as a means of payment. The second is bound up with the introduction of "currency control over the receipt of currency earnings from the export of goods." This involves one of the key problems of the Russian economy: The illegal outflow of currency abroad. In the first six months of the year alone around 5 billion rubles [R] failed to return to Russia.

The Central Bank's new instruction envisages tight coordination between customs and banking control. Information about the passage of goods across the border and the receipt of currency earnings will be collated in authorized banks, which will carry out exporters' settlements. Those in breach of the new rules, which will be introduced on strategically important goods on 1 January 1994, risk at the very least a fine equivalent to the sums concealed.

The authors of the draft, which, incidentally, cost the state budget not a single kopek, have a level-headed view of its effectiveness: There is no administrative control in the world which cannot be avoided. Sophisticated methods of avoidance have been and will continue to be employed.

Consequently, hope is pinned on the compliance of the bulk of exporters, who operate in a pretty crude way. Hopes, albeit very illusory ones, are also pinned on an improvement in the overall economic climate, which will make it more advantageous to invest resources in Russia than to conceal them abroad.

But all this lies in an unknown future. Meanwhile a barrage of press "exposes" about the Central Bank leadership and pressure on the government and president are expected. Holders of very large capital have an interest in abolishing exchange control.

Further on Controls

LD1810131193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0710 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] We have already reported that Russia's Central Bank intends to tighten control over hard currency earnings of Russian exporters. An instruction on procedures for implementing currency control over incoming hard currency proceeds from the export of commodities has been issued. Dmitriy Tulin, deputy chairmen of the Central Bank board, believes that the new instruction will help stop the illegal drain of capitals to foreign parts.

Incidentally, in the past two years, the annual hard currency drain amounted to between $10 and 20 billion. Here is Dmitriy Tulin.

[Begin Tulin recording] We are talking about the estimate for the amount of hard currency that does not return to the Russian Federation in breach of the requirements of our currency legislation, in other words, about the volume of illegal outflow of hard currency from Russia. The aim of the new control mechanism is to cut down this illegal outflow of funds. Placing the responsibility for this work on Russian commercial banks is in complete accordance with the law; it follows from the Russian federation law on currency regulation and currency control, which stipulates that the banks authorized by the state to conduct transactions in foreign currency are the agents of currency control, and alongside the pleasant function of receiving proceeds from foreign currency transactions, they also have certain duties. Our aim is not necessarily to grab each one by the hand. This is not the point. First, this system prevents the more shameless and brazen breaches of legislation, when the lack of any supervision whatsoever just stimulates illegal activities. Second, as the state begins to work in this direction, a check is put on quite a few offenders—they will not do it, because an increased likelihood of being exposed is enough to make a many an organization to think better of it. [end recording]

May I remind you that the new regulations will cover Russian exporters of strategic goods from 1 November, and the remainder from 1 March.

Central Bank Moves Against Banks With Debt Problems

PM1510131193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Ivan Zhagel report: "Tough Central Bank Measures Against 22 Commercial Banks"]

[Text] On 11 October, cash centers of the Central Bank of Russia's Moscow Administration suspended the operation of 22 of the capital's banking institutions. This tough measure has been taken because these banks have had a negative balance for more than five days, which means that during this time the banks' expenditure has exceeded their income.

It is clear that a negative balance has been recorded because of bad lending by the banks' directors. Some of them, we were told by the Central Bank's Main Administration for Moscow, have even had no qualms about putting forward the following argument: What can we do, we authorize loans, and... they are not repaid!

Of course, if banks cannot work with their clients, they should be put in order by monitoring organs, if their licenses are not taken away altogether. Hence all incoming funds to these banks will now be channeled into paying off their debts, and no payments will be made to their correspondent accounts until their debts are paid off.

The list of credit institutions with excess debts includes the following banks and subsidiaries: ALEKO, BARS, GLORI-SEYVBANK, Izumrudnyy, Interart, Kredit-Konsensus, Marco Polo Bank, Mentor-Sinema, Pragma-Bank, Romanton, Rusinvestbank, Skaross, Stankomekhprombank, Status-Kredit-Bank, the Moscow and Zelenograd branches of the Lithuanian bank "Geka," Ekabank, MMM-Bank, the Amalgamated Settlement and Clearing House, and Nominal.

In addition, operations are not being conducted at two banks which also have a long-term negative balance. "Nike," (which has been deprived of its license to conduct banking operations by the Central Bank), and the Moscow Commercial Bank for Mortgage Finance, (the Central Bank has decided to go the arbitration court to have this bank declared bankrupt).

For the information of clients: three banking institutions, The "Diler" Bank, "Reinbank," and the Moscow branch of the Kazakhstan Central Joint-Stock Bank, have paid off their debts.

Central Bank Announces New Interest Rates

PM1810145193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Ivan Zhagel report: "One News Conference with Two Sensations"]

[Text] The usual conference at the Central Bank of Russia 15 October was on this occasion far from ordinary and produced two sensations at the same time. Opening the press conference, Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank, announced that the Bank of Russia Board of Directors had just adopted a decision to raise the refunding rate to 210 percent a year and increase the interest on debit balances to 420 percent a year.

However, this certainly does not mean, A. Khandruyev noted, that we wanted to seize the initiative in the pursuit of a harsh credit-monetary and financial policy. The point is that recently the old refunding rates helped to intensify the speculative processes in the interbank market and the decision to raise the rate to 210 percent a year was made precisely to eradicate them. Analysis shows that in so doing we have moved closer to the level of supply and demand for money in the interbank market.

The second part of the press conference was shared by the leadership of the State Customs Committee. It was announced that this committee and the Central Bank, in conjunction with the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, have prepared and issued instruction no. 19 "On the procedure for implementing currency control on the receipt of currency revenue from the export of commodities." This document is meant to help end the illegal leak of capital out of the country.

The new instruction provides for the rigorous linkage of customs and bank control. Two sources of information—on the passage of commodities across the border and on the receipt of the corresponding hard currency revenue—will be correlated at authorized banks which handle the accounts of exporters. A whole package of regulatory documents has been devised which will be binding for exporters as well as for the authorized banks.

The introduction of the instruction is planned in two stages. With regard to commodities which are considered strategically important the new control system will begin operating as of 1 January 1994. Exporters of other commodities are given a two-month deferral until 1 March 1994.

Gerashchenko Seen Likely To Be Fired

MK1610102593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Ivan Zasurskiy report under the "Finance" rubric: "Will Viktor Gerashchenko Be Fired? If He Will, What Is Behind This?"]

[Text] However interesting and significant the Central Bank's actions in the area of currency regulation and control might be, the fate of Russian Central Bank chief Viktor Gerashchenko is more intriguing. Viktor Gerashchenko's independent stance, which he is able to defend thanks to his high authority and professionalism, despite all his evolution from chief of the former USSR Gosbank, makes him a thorn in the side for the government's radical wing.

According to some reports, the day before yesterday the matter of Viktor Gerashchenko's dismissal was resolved in principle and a corresponding presidential edict was being drawn up. What remains to be seen is whether this information will be confirmed by Boris Yeltsin's actions and what will be the possible consequences of this step.

Everything confirms that Gerashchenko is being pressured "up to the limit." Reports that have appeared in respectable publications contain horrible revelations about the Russian Central Bank's chiefs. The campaign, which began last spring, has been in full swing for two months or so already, but what is even more surprising, it is based on strange sensations.

In particular, they claim that 3 trillion rubles were "found," which were stolen in the course of the money reform (this is stupid—if they steal in the Central Bank, they do it without cash). The latest claim that the Central Bank handed over to the rebellious Supreme Soviet 600 million in cash moreover, stems from the wicked attempt to have courts investigate old cases according to new laws, all the more so because (according to reliable information) the pay list was let through by the Finance Ministry.

Arguing with the sensations of the past makes no sense, however, because Gerashchenko (unlike some politicians) has not become a popular hero. It is another matter that unless the Russian Central Bank chief is removed now ("into the bargain"), in a month's time there will be no dismissing him at all, as the information background will be less dramatic and public attention more close. And since the idea of setting up a federal treasury, in effect a second issuing center, which would make it possible to conceal any deficit, has not been pushed through recently, it would be logical to presume that the financial radicals are confident that they can lay their hands on the Central Bank.

However, since the government, which is still split and amorphous, does not have any idea as to what is to be done or have the possibility to pass the buck, it can also be presumed that Gerashchenko will be kept as the last scapegoat. For can anyone seriously expect financial stabilization at a time when Russia is financing its armed forces in a number of armed conflict areas and when political and social lobbies are intent on boosting centralized credits?

The second question is what Gerashchenko's dismissal will lead to. Had the Russian Central Bank chief "slammed the door" on his way out, the domestic banking system could be given up for lost. Those, however, who are intent on firing Gerashchenko are perfectly aware of his decency and that he will make a point of handing over the books as carefully as possible. This is why no serious avalanche should be expected: only the innumerable multitude of petty misappropriations, embezzlement, and other delights of transition periods. In principle, the extent of disorder in the banking system has caught up with Russia's general disorder not only in quality (the Central Bank was bombed even under Gerashchenko), but in quantity. Specialists predict a cash crunch, a crisis of mutual payments, and a personnel crisis in the Bank of Russia, which has up to now remained an elitist, nearly "family" business, and in the event of an arrival of amateurs, Central Bank staffers' system of values and reasons for "staying" may collapse.

The possible change of the Central Bank chief and the elimination of the bank's formal independence will have only one "pro"—but only for the executive authority. The Russian Central Bank will become yet another tool for the architects of an economic miracle. Many experts agree that the Kremlin is capable of preparing the ground for the country's self-evolution only by carrying out legal reform. All the rest will yield either no desired results or will amount to measures of operational control, and not reform, including financial stabilization.

Information Center To Issue Data on Fuel Complex

LD1510125493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Infotek is the name of a new information and analysis agency set up at the soviet for information and cooperation [of the technical committee]. It is also under the authority of the Russian Ministry for Fuel and Power Engineering and the main power engineering computer center. Its main task is to provide full and objective information on the work of the Russian fuel complex.

Oil Producers Advocate 'Balancing Interests'

PM1810155193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Report by Sergey Omelchenko and Aleksandr Letichevskiy; from the "Novosti" program]

[Text] [Omelchenko] The flow of oil and petrochemicals—an industrial staple and the basis of the country's budget revenue—is petering out. This year extraction fell to 320 million tonnes, a considerable drop on previous figures. If things do not improve, oil extraction will fall by another 100 million tonnes in 1994-1995 and Russia will have to buy fuel instead of selling it.

The Council of the Union of Oil Industrialists believes that the situation can be rectified if, primarily, a law on oil and gas is adopted.

[V.S. Medvedev, president of the Union of Oil Industrialists] The tax burden, along with the absence of an investment policy and an unreasonable financial policy, are causing key sectors to curtail production. The Union of Oil Industrialists' avowed principle is that of balancing interests—those of the state, the budget, the producer, and the consumer.

Decree Frees Oil, Gas Groups Payment Methods

LD1510183093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—A decree to free oil and gas-extracting amalgamations from obligatory sales of part of their hard currency proceeds from oil deliveries to pay the foreign credit was issued today by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the presidential press service reports.

Bearing in mind the report of the Russian Government's currency-economic commission, the oil and gas-extracting amalgamations of the lukoil oil company joint stock society (Kagalymneftegaz, Langepasneftegaz and Uroineftegaz) shall be freed from obligatory sales of part of their hard currency proceeds from oil exports from October 15, 1993, through December 31, 1999, on condition of deduction of all spare hard currency to pay the 700 million U.S. credit of the Japanese export-import bank issued to the joint stock society for purchases of material and technical resources.

Measures Adopted for Supplying Winter Fuel, Heat

LD1810203693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscasts]

[Text] The Russian Government have adopted measures for providing the country's national economy and population with fuel, electricity and heating during the autumn-winter of 1993-94. A credit of 350 billion rubles to enterprises of the fuel and power engineering complex from the federal budget is one of the measures.

Zaveryukha Warns of Harvest Problems

PM1510115593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Golyayev report: "Aleksandr Zaveryukha: Not Only the Heavens Are To Blame"]

[Text] The other day Aleksandr Zaveryukha, deputy chairman of the Russian Government, sent a private letter to the country's prime minister and president. It expresses extreme concern over the state of affairs in the countryside.

Russia's generally quite good harvest, cultivated by incredible efforts, could be left in the fields. As of 11 October, almost 47 million hectares of grain crops had been threshed, that is almost 87 percent of the total area. Grain in the East Siberian, West Siberian, Urals, and Far East Regions have not been harvested and in the Central Region there are a considerable number of "uncut swaths," approximately one-fifth of the area. There used to be a joke that there were four main factors preventing the countryside from developing: winter, spring, fall, and winter; that is, nature and weather conditions are to blame. Unfortunately these are the main arguments even now. For instance, rain poured down in Altay and equipment here stopped everywhere.

But not only the heavens are to blame, there is no order on the ground. The resources allocated by the state are not enough for the landowner to buy harvesting equipment, and neither does he have the money to buy a loaf of bread in the store. The countryside is up to its ears in debt. Furthermore, those who receive the produce, meat, milk, sugar, grain, are in no rush to settle up; money is sloshing around Russia and anyone you like is putting it into circulation except those who have actually earned it.

But the peasant scrapes some money together and decides to buy some "solar" oil to start with—equipment often stands idle for lack of that too. No, the peasant is told, it is not known when there will be any solar oil. The situation is the same with spare parts. Hence the picture: The total harvest now stands at 91.2 million tonnes, but "there are still mountains of grain in the fields," specialists from Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha's apparatus assure us. The story is the same with the harvesting of sugar beets, fiber flax, potatoes, and vegetables. And then fall plowing still has to be done and winter crops still have to be sown.

A dramatic situation. The deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers has kept the president and the government chairman fully informed. Unless emergency measures are taken right now the work of millions of peasants will have been in vain and the shortage of products in stores will enrage the population even more. This is roughly what this letter, which cannot be quoted, says; it evidently contains facts which are "even more dreadful" than those cited in this commentary.

Bread Prices Deregulated; No Increase Noted

LD1510171393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0848 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chernov]

moscow october 15 tass—Bread prices have been freed on Friday in Russia, however the price of a loaf of bread remained unchanged in Moscow shops and cost an average of 135 roubles.

Shops may be slow in reacting to free prices and bread may become more expensive in the coming days.

Vitaliy Kaurov, chairman of the pricing committee at the Russian Government, said the government had stopped compensating the difference between purchasing grain prices and the true cost of grain. However, low-income families will receive subsidies.

He believes bread prices will not skyrocket as the 15 per cent profitability limit for grain processing enterprises and bakeries remained unchanged.

Traffic fare doubled in Moscow on Friday for bus and trolley and a trip now costs 20 roubles, one trip in the metro costs 30 roubles.

Government Decree on Allowances

PM1810144793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Decree No. 1057 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government dated in Moscow on 14 October and signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government: "On Amending Decree No. 982 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government of 27 September 1993 'On the Amount of Bread Allowance for Needy Categories of Citizens and the Procedure for Paying It'"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government decrees:

that Paragraphs 1, 2, and 7 of Point 2 of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Decree No. 982 of 27 September 1993 "On the Amount of Bread Allowance for Needy Categories of Citizens and the Procedure for Paying It" be supplemented as follows: "After September 1993, the aforementioned difference cannot be less than 300 rubles a month."

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government

Official Foresees Industrial 'Resurrection'

PM1810094793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Commentary by Anatoliy Ogurtsov, chairman of the Russian Federation Machine Building Committee: "This Year Is the Start of Industry's Resurrection"]

[Text] Russia's machine building complex has experience a production slump—the inevitable consequence of the transformation of the old economic model—but thanks to their powerful potential the machine builders have been able to avoid a catastrophic collapse.

To stabilize the situation the Russian Machine Building Committee has tried primarily to restore the broken ties with enterprises outside Russia. These enterprises are suffering from the destruction of technological links no less than Russian enterprises. It is not surprising that they all welcomed with great interest the Russian Machine Building Committee's initiative to restore the destroyed ties.

We have held a conference of leaders of the CIS countries' machine building ministries and departments in Moscow and created a council for cooperation in the field of machine building, which has set itself the task of resolving through collective efforts the problems which arise. In particular it has been decided to create an interstate machine building bank, which should facilitate mutual accounts between enterprises.

Speaking as a whole the machine builders now have hopes of stabilizing production. Over the first nine months of this year the rates of production decline in machine building have decreased compared with last year and are 11.3 percent. For some commodities (trolleybuses, motor vehicles, passenger cars, petroleum and gas refining equipment, and consumer goods) a steady production growth has been achieved. And unless some political and economic cataclysms prevent it, this year can be regarded as the start of the resurrection of industry.

Export, Import Totals Below Previous Year

PM1510140393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed, untitled report under "News in Brief" rubric]

[Text] Russian exports continue to exceed imports more than twofold. During the first nine months of this year the Russian Federation has exported output to the value of $27,980,800,000, which does not exceed last year's volume. But at the same time Russia has imported half as many goods—worth $13,260,500,000 less—as during the corresponding period of 1992.

August Production Decline Reported

PM1510145593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 3

[Report by Eduard Baranov, chief of the Consolidated Economic Forecasting Administration, and Andrey Kosarev, chief of the National Accounting Analysis Administration at the Russian Government's Center for Economic Conditions: "Russia's Industry in August"—final paragraph is ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI note]

[Text] In August the index for the physical volume of industrial production was 87.5 percent of the total for August last year. It should be noted that in August the correlation between the 1993 and 1992 production volumes improved: In July 1993 the production level was only 84.4 percent of the July 1992 level.

As before the greatest lag compared with 1992 is to be observed in the chemical and timber complex, where the volume of production in August was 82.3 percent of the August 1992 level, and also in machine building—83.9 percent.

It is characteristic that the reduction in production output in August this year compared with the same month in 1992 in the complex of light and food industry sectors was less substantial than in other sectors. Thus, in light industry the volume of production was virtually the same as August last year, comprising 98.5 percent, while in the food industry it declined to 89.3 percent. At the same time it should, however, be noted that in the food industry and in particular in light industry the absolute level of production is extremely low: Thus, for instance, in light industry production output this August was less than half the level of January 1992.

The main dynamic trends in the production of individual types of industrial output not adjusted to take account of seasonal features take shape as follows.

An obvious feature in the fuel and energy complex is the reduction in August, compared with July 1993, in the average daily extraction of natural gas to 90 million cubic meters (or by 6 percent). No such reduction has been observed for this period in previous years. The total volume of extraction was the lowest since January 1988.

The average daily extraction of oil declined by 13,000 tonnes in August compared with July, that is by slightly less than for the same period in 1990-1992 (16,000-19,000 tonnes). Compared with January the average daily oil extraction in August 1993 declined by 69,000 tonnes, which coincides approximately with a similar reduction in 1990 and is less than the reduction characteristic of this period in 1991 and 1992 (84,000 and 101,000 tonnes respectively).

In the metallurgical complex the most noticeable reduction in daily production in August compared with July 1993 was for pig iron and for oxygen-converter steel (8 percent), finished rolled ferrous metals (6 percent), and tempered rolled metal (17 percent). The increase in the average daily smelting of nickel characteristic of this period in recent years was not observed. A profound crisis situation persists in the production of high-strength pump and compressor pipes. Since early 1993 they have been produced in small quantities for only two months (in March and June).

At the same time in August an increase was achieved compared with July in the average daily production of curved steel bars (7 percent), high-quality cold-rolled steel including ball bearing steel (11 percent), and steel wire from high-quality grades of steel (43 percent). In August, after a quite marked decline in July, there was an improvement to the indicators for the average daily production of rolled stainless steel, metal cord, high-strength casing, and magnesium.

For a considerable number of types of output from the machine building complex there was a quite tangible reduction in average daily production in August compared with July 1993. This applies primarily to a number of types of construction and agricultural equipment and also to transport facilities. Thus, over the period under review, average daily production of diesels and diesel generators declined by 56 percent, of woodworking machines by 12 percent, of bridge cranes 23 percent, of truck-mounted cranes 13 percent, of cranes using pneumatic tires 30 percent, of bulldozers 13 percent, of road graders 45 percent, of freightcars 59 percent, of trucks 10 percent, of buses 4 percent, of trolleybuses 27 percent, of tractor trailers 45 percent, and of tractor-drawn mowers 28 percent.

In some sectors there are long production stoppages. In particular, over the first eight months of 1993 electric motors were not produced for two months, rotary and rotary conveyor belts for machine building and metal working were not produced for three months, digital program-controlled forge and pressing machines were not produced for four months, and scrapers and flax harvesting combines were not produced for five months.

An average daily increase compared with July 1993 was achieved in the production of low-output electric motors (6 percent), spinning machines (22 percent), tower cranes (61 percent), and passenger vehicles (10 percent). After a drastic decline in July 1993 there has been an improvement in the dynamics of the production of steam turbines, looms, and automobile trailers.

In the chemical and petrochemical industry there was a marked reduction in August compared with July 1993 in the production of synthetic ammonia (9 percent), calcium carbide (14 percent), soda ash (29 percent), nitrogenous fertilizers (19 percent), chemical plant protection agents (30 percent), polyvinylchloride (13 percent), polyethylene (12 percent), industrial carbon and truck tires (16 percent), tires for agricultural vehicles (34 percent), drive belts (8 percent), magnetic tape (15 percent), and microbiological feed protein (31 percent).

There was a quite palpable increase in August compared with July in the average daily production of polyvinylchloride plastic compounds (33 percent), synthetic fatty spirit (33 percent), and packaged analgin and euphyllin [medications] (almost doubled).

Following the sharp slump (and in certain cases the complete shutdown of production) in July, indicators for the manufacture of potassium fertilizers, polypropylene, thermoplastic pipes, cellophane, rubber conveyor belts, and validol improved.

For the overwhelming majority of the basic categories of product in the timber, wood processing, and pulp and paper industries, the changes in average daily production in August compared with July 1993 are in line with the seasonal features of the period under review. Attention is drawn merely to the 19-percent reduction in the average daily manufacture of wooden ties for railroad switches. The practical ending in 1993 of the production of paper for intaglio printing (it was produced for just one month—March) should be noted.

At the same time, following the long slump in August compared with July a considerable increase was achieved in average daily production of sets of wooden components for houses with walls made out of local construction materials (up 450 percent). Average daily production of newsprint increased—by 45 percent. Following the sharp slump in July, the dynamics of the manufacture of writing and textbook paper improved.

Compared with July 1993 there was a tangible slump in August in the construction materials and structures industry in average daily production of linoleum (down

17 percent), radiators and convector heaters (down 12 percent), basins and sinks (down 75 percent), and steel wall and roofing panels (down 62 percent).

Following a three-month slump, average daily output of asbestos has been resumed. Following a sharp fall in July, the dynamics of the production of asbestos cement tiles, light metal structures, and construction glass have improved.

In the food industry attention is drawn to the reduction in August as against July 1993 of average daily output of nonfat dairy products (down 16 percent), groats (down 17 percent)—including millet (down 69 percent) and rice (down 67 percent)—vitamin protein additives (down 83 percent), vodka and spirits (down 11 percent), and beer (down 12 percent).

The usual August seasonal increase on July of average daily production of sausage products, clarified edible animal fat, meat semimanufactures, and mixed feed failed to occur; there was a considerable decline in the usual rate of seasonal growth in the average daily output of unrectified alcohol produced from edible raw materials.

But there was an increase in production of whole-milk substitute (up 18 percent) and fruit juice (up 5 percent) in August compared with July. Following the deep slump in July, the dynamics of average daily production of refined sugar increased somewhat.

In the manufacture of nonfood consumer goods a decline should be noted in the average daily production in August as against July 1993 of refrigerators (down 6 percent), video cassettes (down 52 percent), cameras (down 10 percent), clocks (down 10 percent), motorcycles (down 7 percent), bicycles (down 16 percent), wooden pencils (down 8 percent), and shampoo (down 35 percent). The usual August surge in average daily production of matches failed to occur, and in the production of Russian- and Western-style cigarettes this surge was far weaker than in years past.

In August there were signs of a stabilization of the situation in light industry. Production of women's clothing fell by just 11 percent on July. At the same time, average daily production of silk fabric rose by 22 percent, suits by 36 percent, pants by 70 percent, and baby linen by 11 percent. Following a considerable reduction in July there was a notable increase in August in average daily production of cotton yarn, cotton and woolen fabric, thick towels, raincoats, Russia-leather goods, and felt footwear.

Military Issues

Kokoshin Speaks at Conference on State of Space Forces

LD1510132393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—The loss of an entire range of installations of the Russian space forces in the wake of the breakup of the Soviet Union called for new, unconventional moves to ensure control over spacecraft. Despite considerable financial difficulties, the commandment of the Russian space forces has succeeded in ensuring reliable control over groups of satellites designed for a variety of purposes and maintaining the necessary infrastructure. This was announced at a working meeting of Russia's space force leaders chaired by First Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin here.

Only two countries in the world—the United States and Russia—have developed infrastructure for operating means in space. The Russian Defence Ministry, which is also suffering from lack of funding, has reshuffled all available resources and compressed research and development projects to ensure the provision of latest technologies to the space forces, a spokesman for the ministry told ITAR-TASS.

Andrey Kokoshin told the conference in Moscow that an ever increasing attention is being centered on dual-purpose technologies which can be effectively used also in the national economy.

The space forces closely collaborate with the Russian space agency, leading enterprises, the state committee for the industry and the Communications Ministry. One result of their close cooperation is the full-scale functioning of the global satellite navigational system Glonass, which is superior to the U.S. system Navstar in a number of respects.

The working meeting in Moscow decided on a number of practical measures aimed at retaining highly-qualified specialists in research institutes and design bureaus, as well as at enterprises backing up the space forces. The meeting also decided to concentrate the space force orders to the most advanced and promising enterprises of Russia.

Discusses Future of Forces

PM1810135993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate report: "Space Forces: Quest for Unorthodox Solutions"]

[Text] First Deputy Defense Minister A. Kokoshin was briefed on the state of affairs at a main Russian Space Forces facility and chaired a working conference with leading Space Forces personnel.

Discussion specifically focused on questions of providing technical support for this, one of the Armed Forces' science-intensive organisms.

Only two countries in the world—Russia and the United States—possess a highly developed infrastructure for providing the space hardware which primarily determines a country's real power in this sphere, a sphere that is becoming increasingly important for civilian and military tasks.

The loss of a whole series of Space Forces facilities because of the Union's disintegration has demanded new and unorthodox solutions in ensuring spacecraft control.

It was noted during the conference that, despite considerable financing difficulties, the Space Forces command is stepping up its efforts to ensure the stable control of satellite groupings with various purposes and the maintenance of the entire infrastructure that is needed.

By optimally utilizing the meager resources allocated for defense needs, reducing the list of articles produced, and integrating research and development work, the Defense Ministry is still managing to supply the Space Forces with the latest equipment in a number of areas.

Kokoshin stressed that growing attention in developing the Space Forces is being devoted to dual-purpose technologies which could have maximum application in the national economy. The Space Forces are collaborating closely with the Russian Space Agency, leading enterprises, the State Committee for Industrial Policy, and the Communications Ministry. Specifically, the "Glonass" global satellite navigation system, which is superior to the U.S. "Navstar" system in a many regards, is now almost fully functional under Space Forces command.

During the conference a number of practical measures were outlined, aimed at retaining the most highly-skilled cadres in research institutes and design bureaus and at plants providing backup for the Space Forces and at concentrating Space Forces orders in the strongest and most promising Russian enterprises.

Shokhin Interviewed on Financing of Military

LD1710090093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin by unidentified correspondent; from the "Contrasts" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In the events of early October, the role of the power structures, and the Army in particular, was, as we all know, decisive. Incentives for the Army can scarcely be restricted to awards and promotions for the commanders. Here, perhaps, financial injections also have to follow into the enterprises linked with the military industrial complex. If this is really so, then to what extent will this harmonize with plans for restoring the country's financial system?

[Shokhin] I have to say that, as yet, we have not made any excessive financial injections, compared with planned projects, into any sectors of the economy, including the Army and other power structures. The only question at present concerns to whom debts should be paid off first. Here, within the limited possibilities of the budget—we would like the budget deficit not to exceed five trillion rubles in the fourth quarter—within these limited possibilities only a redistribution is possible among individual groups.

Unfortunately there are many such groups. It is not just the Army, it is the military industrial complex, for example, and moreover, defense enterprises that have completely fulfilled their state order, the export order, for example, or an order from our Army—the goods have been produced and even dispatched, but the money for them has not come through. It does not matter if it is the military industrial complex or the civilian sector—the state has not met its commitments. Here, too, we will have to do something, pay off some debts, if only to maintain a spark of life at these enterprises.

The government presidium was present at a meeting at the Defense Ministry where military doctrine was being examined, and it has to be said that discussion of military doctrine and the prospects for building the Russian Army very quickly shifted to discussion of the sore points of the Russian Army, current sore points. There is no housing, there are no fuels or lubricants, our pilots' flying times are among the lowest in the world as a result of the lack of fuels and lubricants, kerosene and so on. As a result, it turns out that even if there are financial injections, it would only make it possible to maintain the Army's necessary defense capacity, combat capability, and no more. Unfortunately there can be no luxury here with the country's current financial situation, in the first place, and with the current situation of the Army, like the economy as a whole.

[Correspondent] That is, financial injections are still being planned?

[Shokhin] Well, let us put it like this—balanced injections, because we have to make injections into many sectors, and there might be many different criteria here, according to the degree to which there is a shortfall in the promised sums of money that were once laid down in the budget. If you make a comparison with this, who was promised what back in the summer, then the Army is not in a substantially more advantageous position. Although regarding, say, the current upkeep of servicemen for September, there are no debts, that is, the shortfall is in the allocation of the corresponding funds.

[Correspondent] I did not mean the summer promises but the fall ones, Aleksandr Nikolayevich.

[Shokhin] Well, you see, I only want to say this, that the problem of the power structures alone will not drag our economy down. If anything is going to drag it down, then it will be everything together, when we are unable to make a sensible choice of priorities and redistribute limited resources. But we will not use the printing press. If, say, this month the priority was in one sector, then next month we have to help out another. But we will not be able, say, to feed the Army the whole time to a higher order than the other structures, sectors, and groups of the population, that is obvious.

Security Council Head Reports on Military Doctrine

LD1810212793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Interview with Oleg Lobov, head of the Security Council by correspondent Sergey Omelchenko in Moscow; date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Sergey Medvedev] Between October this year and May 1995 the international forum World Experience and the Russian Economy is to be held in Moscow and other CIS cities. The theme at its first congress, which opens tomorrow in the state Kremlin Palace, is privatization in Russia.

[Lobov] The signing of the document on the setting up of an Economic Union has created a favorable climate. We, too, have seen some positive moves in separate spheres in Russia. It is important that Russia's advanced experience is consolidated, along with world experience of issues relating to economic development. Russia should move into the world arena, with her goods, high quality goods, with her advanced technology, with our people. Economics has its own laws. They should be recognized and used for the good of the people of Russia.

[Omelchenko] Oleg Ivanovich, I would now like to put a question to you as secretary of the Security Council. Last Friday, at the president's request, the issue of the basic clauses of military doctrine should have been examined. What is happening with this now?

[Lobov] The absolute majority of all the points that were made have been taken into account in the new version. We need another few days to make the final touches before it can be submitted for the president's approval.

[Omelchenko] What are the basic postulates of the doctrine?

[Lobov] Russia is no one's enemy and does not regard any state as her opponent.

[Medvedev] The Security Council secretary said that, in keeping with the military doctrine, Russia is for disarmament, for limiting the spread of, and for controlling, nuclear weapons, for the peaceful settlement of all disputes, and against territorial, nationalist, and other claims against each other.

[Lobov] At the same time, of course, Russia is responsible for her people, and the Armed Forces are responsible, which means they should meet all the requirements of military security.

Observance of 'One-Man Command' Stressed

PM1810081593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed article: "The Stricter the Hierarchy of One-Man Command, the Sounder and More Reliable Is the Army Itself"]

[Text] The recent tragic events in Moscow were a test for all our society. They were also a most serious and dramatic test for the Armed Forces. A test of their soundness, controllability, ability to stop the virus of political confrontation penetrating Army ranks, and capacity to live and operate under any circumstances according to the strict laws of military organization and the principle of one-man command.

One-man command... The essence of this concept is basically very simple. A commander's order is law for his subordinates and should be unswervingly obeyed. The commander who issues the order is personally responsible for it and its consequences. Finally, he himself is subordinate in his actions solely to his superior commanders and chiefs, and to none other. The strict hierarchy of one-man command is essentially what makes the Army the Army. Only by clearly following this most important principle of troop leadership can we ensure in everyday life the proper organization of service and the normal functioning of the highly complex Army organism. In combat or in extreme circumstances it is of simply vital importance to subordinate the will of the many to the will of a single commander and to act on the basis of a single idea, decision, or order.

All these truths are, of course, nothing new. However, there is a reason today to look at the problem of one-man command in the Armed Forces from another angle as well—one that may not even have been imagined in years past. What is the role of Army one-man command when society is unstable? During a period of profound political crisis and sharp confrontation? If you think about it, it is obvious that under such conditions this problem clearly goes beyond a purely Army framework. It is essentially a problem of social and state security. For if the Army, despite everything, maintains its unity, controllability, and stability it becomes in itself a factor of colossal stabilizing force for all society. However, if it does not hold firm, allows itself to be split, or starts living not on the principle of a "single order" but of two, three, or 10 orders, then it is no longer the Army but simply "material"—"cannon fodder" for a civil war. Regrettably, this has already occurred in our history. It can pretty often be seen today, right alongside the Russian border in "hot spots."

This is something that should not be forgotten, not least by those who are now attempting to pass judgment on the actions of the military during the Moscow events by looking at them exclusively in the light of political passions.

Yes, regrettably we still have far to go before we reach the kind of civilized society in which the military would in practice have limited opportunity to get involved in political confrontation. We need all the more to learn lessons from what has happened. In particular, we need to be concerned to provide the most serious legal strengthening for the principle of one-man command in the Armed Forces, and to create a system of legal checks which would make it impossible in principle for any politicians to infringe its position.

The idea of one-man command should also be implemented more actively within the Armed Forces themselves. Let us make no bones about it, in our everyday work of late and in the difficulties of our current life we have relaxed our attention to many of the foundations of Army service. The fact that the Army, like all of society, is at a transitional stage, that we still have only provisional regulations, and that the criteria for educational work under the new conditions have not yet been finally established are also having an impact, of course... Nonetheless, there are some obvious things. Following the abolition of the institution of political workers we have started to shun the word "propaganda." But the military, if anyone, should realize that the Army needs not just familiarization and explanations but actual vigorous, persistent, and consistent propagandizing of concepts such as the sacred nature of the oath and readiness to carry out commanders' orders, propagandizing of the requirements of one-man command, discipline, and strict observance of regulations...

Is it normal that over the past few years the image of the commander has been taking a back seat? And yet the problems of the commanding officer's authority, professionalism, and prestige need profound analysis and creative solutions today more than ever.

There have been many debates and arguments in recent years about the relationship between one-man command and the democratization of Army life. It is understandable that the increased role of officer assemblies and other social institutions today could be of considerable use in impeding petty tyranny and arbitrariness, helping to take the views of military collectives and the Army public more into account. At the same time, the Army is the Army, and there have to be limits to its democratization. The criteria in this area should probably be as follows. Anything that serves to strengthen or improve military service and one-man command is acceptable, but anything that erodes it or clearly contradicts it is completely impermissible.

We are living in a difficult time. And it is the duty of military men to always remember that there is their personal life and there is their job; there is the civilian and there is the military; there is the problem of personal sympathies and leanings, and there is the problem of military obedience and subordination. The military are human beings, after all, and like everyone, they have hearts, souls, and nerves, and they are entitled to their own views and convictions. But it is not for nothing that they are in uniform! Whatever clashes there may be—even the most dramatic—military principles and military duty come first for the serviceman. The Army stands by this view. This is what makes it a united, organized, and reliably controllable force. This is what makes it in our turbulent and unstable time the most important guarantor of the fatherland's integrity, stability, and civic peace.

Performance of Contract Recruits in Pacific Fleet Assessed

LD1710105893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Six months have passed since the Russian Armed Forces recruited its first volunteers for military service on a contract basis. As a RIA correspondent was informed at the press center of the Pacific Ocean Fleet, almost 10,000 contracts have been concluded in this period and analysis has shown that commanders of crews and military units who have been strict in their selection of contract-servicemen have obtained a reliable buttress. Discipline and fighting ability have risen. On the other hand, wherever recruiting has been conducted on a superficial level the number of AWOL cases, instances of drunkenness and altercations with officers has gone up. As a result, in one garrison alone, in Sovetskaya Gavan, 12 percent of sailors serving for a fixed period have had their contracts terminated.

Media Issues

Parliament's Publishing House Placed Under Press Ministry

LD1810144293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] With the powers of Russia's Supreme Soviet now gone, First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko instructed the State Property Committee to transfer the Supreme Soviet's publishing house "Izvestia" to the jurisdiction of the Press and Information Ministry.

In addition, the State Property Committee was granted the rights of the publishing house's founder, and instructed to amend its founding documents with a view towards bringing them in line with Russia's legislation and presenting them for registration.

Under these instructions, the director of the publishing house, Y. Yefremov, was relieved of his duties.

S. Lazarev has been appointed acting director.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Rejects Government Offer

LD1810123493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—The "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) is determined to remain independent and turned down a request of the Moscow government and the information Ministry to become its founders.

The previous founder of the newspaper with a circulation of 100,000 copies was the Moscow Soviet which was dissolved after the armed opposition rebellion in the capital.

The newspaper has now to re-register itself and editor-in-chief Vitaliy Tretyakov told TASS on Monday [18 October] that the Moscow government and the Russian Information Ministry had proposed themselves as new founders.

"The journalists of the publication disagree with such a proposal", Tretyakov said, adding that the documents submitted for a new registration name the workforce of the daily as the founder.

"Any attempts of pressure on the work collective of the publication are an infringement on the freedom of the press", he stressed.

Banning of Opposition Parties, Publications Criticized

PM1810132793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Dmitriy Orlov: "Banning Is Simple. But What Next?"]

[Text] A parliamentary opposition is better than an extraparliamentary one but the emotional charge of a registered publication cannot be compared with the intoxicating effect of an underground leaflet. The actions of some supporters of the Russian Federation president make one doubt whether they know these irrefutable truths.

A specter is abroad in Russia, this time the specter of McCarthyism. Only recently the calls, angrily rejected by the public, for the interception of correspondence and proscriptions are today seen as almost the norm. T.Kh. Gdlyan, for instance, calls for the "elimination" of the supporters of the rebellion in a television conversation with D. Dibrov 10 October. If a former prosecutor calls for this, what can we say of the rest? The borderline between the elimination of the consequences of the rebellion and calls for repressions in our situation is very fine—we should not have any illusions on that score.

I have never been a supporter of the People's Party of Free Russia or the Russian Federation Communist Party or of Mr. Lipitskiy or Mr. Zyuganov personally. Moreover, I hold fundamentally opposite ideological positions. However, I consider a ban on these organizations' activity to be unlawful. After all, parties like the People's Party of Free Russia or the Russian Federation Communist Party do not restrict themselves to the activity of a central apparatus or behind the scenes games by their leaders. With quite substantial public support they are accumulating the feelings of whole social strata. Driving those feelings underground and banning these organizations' activity today is simple, but who will protect the political system from serious upheavals caused by the activity of the nonparliamentary opposition tomorrow when the opposition could reach a colossal size?

I would not rejoice either at the closure of some opposition publications. No one will defend publications like RUSSKIY PORYADOK but in my view newspapers like PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, which have been published for decades and have quite a lot of subscribers, can in my opinion be closed only by a court decision.

Highly prestigious Russian journalists have now attacked centrism, not the opposition but centrism. The psuedocenter, as whose embodiment the Civic Union acted, had disintegrated even before the rebellion so that there is hardly any point in tilting at windmills like the Civic Union. I am sure that a true center, one that has not been created by partycrats, is more necessary to Russia today than ever. Only the center can moderate feelings in Russian society. As we know, moderation is a guarantee of the peaceful nature of social processes in the country. The collapse of many political blocs that lay claim to the center's role, primarily that of the pseudocentrist Civic Union, is no pretext for having done away with centrism.

Unprincipled politicians have ended their political path. Fascist parties and leaflets have been banned. Society supports these measures. But what free elections can there be without opposition publications and parties?

NTV Poses 'Challenge' to Established News Programs

PM1810155593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 12

[Article by critic Galina Chermenskaya: "Independent Television Throws Down a Challenge"]

[Text] Almost the last thing that still united the inhabitants of the CIS, regardless of their political orientation or nationality, was the ritual of watching "Novosti" at 2100 hours on channel one. However, starting this week, even this fragile unity could find itself under threat, because now a certain section of viewers will certainly switch on the St. Petersburg channel at that hour and learn the latest news from Tatyana Mitkova and Mikhail Osonin. By daring to put out its news program "Segodnya" at the same time as channel one's "Novosti" (which Russian Television did not venture to do two years ago), the new NTV [Independent Television] Company has openly thrown down a challenge to its powerful rival—"Ostankino."

Two things lend special piquancy to the situation. First, only a few weeks ago the television stars on whom NTV gambles were shining on the Ostankino channel. Thus, by their departure they have, as it were, undermined in advance the future rival's potential. Second, they have left "Ostankino," a structure most dependent on political winds, in order, as proclaimed in several interviews, to make independent news programs.

It has to be acknowledged that the emergence of NTV on the air is most opportune—at precisely the time when "Ostankino" has decided not particularly to pamper the viewer either with objectivity or with full information. In this sense both "Itogi" and the daily "Segodnya" program really seem to be alternative programs—which in the eyes of the viewer could very soon become a strong argument for choosing in their favor.

Thus, after the quite straightforward interpretation of the recent October events by "Novosti," "Itogi" presented its own version, which is far more meaningful and prompts not categorical assessments but serious reflection—mostly only with the help of a visual sequence, with a minimum of comment. In "Novosti" the presenter, S. Alekseyev, tried to convince viewers that the chairman of the "Ostankino" Television Company was being unjustly censured by individual journalists for his conduct during the storming of the television center. But information reported in "Itogi" an hour earlier had provided grounds for doubts about Mr. Bragin. Channel one reported that the "Ostankino" Board of Directors censured its ViD employees for getting into a "moral impasse"—the next day the "Segodnya" program carried interviews with the "outcasts" and, conversely, cast doubt on the "disconcerting" position of the directors themselves. In short, a dialogue which is highly entertaining to the observer has come about between the two television companies during the very first days.

The significance of NTV's debut, however, should be neither exaggerated nor underestimated. The first issue of "Itogi" produced no special surprises, since the program had long ago mainly taken shape and was not, in fact, in need of radical renewal. Except it is noticeable that Yevgeniy Kiselev keeps a careful eye on the considered nature of his formulas, not giving any grounds—as used to be the case with him at times of political shakeups—for being accused of blatant tendentiousness.

There are more innovations in the program presented by Tatyana Mitkova. "Segodnya" does not just go on longer than the night editions of the news which Mitkova used to present. Probably, although it is difficult to judge from the first bulletins, this is an attempt to correct our usual type of news program by bringing it closer to the model adopted in the rest of the world. An inhouse "special reportage" has emerged, and subjects—particularly those on priority topics—have become appreciably longer, more detailed, and more full of "optional" information, such as the prehistory of the Kurils problem, a detailed explanation of the purport of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, or the text of the article of the law under which Makashov has been charged. All this will certainly please thinking viewers, who like independently to dig down to the crux of problems and do not like having ready-made decisions foisted upon them. It is more for them that the program is designed; at any rate, the material is presented in it in such a way that a certain straining of the intellect and a definite "advanced" nature will prove not out of place for its viewer.

In general, a combination that is unique for Russian television news is taking shape: big capital (as is known, NTV has powerful sponsors—a group of banks) plus high professionalism plus, I would like to think, real independence. Will NTV make use of such a very promising combination? Time will show whether, as a result, we will obtain our own news programs which are not inferior in class to CNN or the BBC.

Editing of Chernomyrdin Interview Questioned

PM1810134393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 12

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya article: "Prime Minister 'Without Retouching'"]

[Text] Probably everyone was waiting for the program "Without Retouching" last Monday—Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was appearing live for the first time since the tragic events in Moscow.

As a direct participant in the televised broadcast, I hardly recognized either my colleagues in the studio or the prime minister himself when I watched a replay of it the next morning. In response to journalists' calm questioning V. Chernomyrdin continually gave out sharp rebukes and was in a state of incomprehensible tension, repeating the same thing: "Don't ask that...."

In actual fact everything was different, and the reason for the metamorphosis on the air was the Russian Television Company's concession to the prime minister in agreeing to broadcast a recording. We journalists also made a concession to the premier by coming together three days running for the long-awaited meeting, which was being postponed all the time.

Unfortunately, the recording was unable to convey the emotional atmosphere in the studio, bordering on hostility and overt journalistic aggression. The press had only to see that the premier was avoiding direct answers and direct assessments of what happened and was "consciously talking nonsense," and a storm at once erupted.

The tough nature of the questions to the premier was dictated not by us but by the dramatic nature of the situation in Russia: by the collapse of the legislature accompanied by an armed rebellion, the censorship which was starting to hang over newspaper pages and television and radio waves, the closure of publications opposed to the president and the government, and, finally, the growing political polarization. That is, it was not we who were putting the questions but Russian society.

Sergey Torchinskiy, presenter of the "Without Retouching" program, also ended up in an unpleasant situation, because he was forced to bring editorial scissors to bear on the recording of the conversation, which lasted 75 minutes instead of the prescribed 55 minutes of airtime. But it is a pity that, as someone known for his adherence to the principle that "a journalist is free to say what he thinks," did not refrain from cutting out 20 minutes of the journalists' most incisive questions when he saw the embittered face of this freedom on the screen.

Indignant at the lack of an objective assessment from the premier of the government's actions during the bloody events, Aleksandr Minkin, who is accustomed to telling "home-truths" boldly in his own MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, did the same thing in the studio: The situation regarding the White House was nothing but chaos and betrayal, uncertainty and confusion. Calling Chernomyrdin a champion premier at canceling his own decisions, Minkin expressed surprise at why he needs so many first vice premiers who are all "at sixes and sevens" with their orders. He asked what the chaos-stricken government would have done if terrorist gunmen had fled from the White House, seized the Konakovo Nuclear Electric Power Station, and delivered a crazy ultimatum: Let Rutskoy and Khasbulatov go, or else we will arrange a Chernobyl for you in Moscow. All this was cut out.

Gennadiy Zhavoronkov of OBSHCHAYA GAZETA would not recognize himself on the air either, since he "turns up in the middle of his own question." Comparing his attitude to the economics of the Chernomyrdin government with the postulate of his Army master sergeant—"don't interfere with the hardware, and it won't let you down"—the journalist caustically surmised that the government was keeping the program for extricating Russia from the crisis a very great secret from its own people. Later he would explain the journalists' unbridled, harsh, and incorrect approach with questions by saying that "they spoke to us as though we were idiots, giving us to understand that we had better not poke our nose into what did not concern us." Then what does concern us? Does it turn out that we cannot ask the government what will happen to us now but must only respond to appeals to come to its defense?

By Chernomyrdin's admission, the studio dialogue was "useful, although bad" for him. The premier, clearly offended yet attempting to conceal his offense, opened up... after the program when surrounded by a tight ring of journalists. Suddenly transformed, he listened simultaneously to everyone, gave clear and laconic replies to everyone, and even found time to joke. He took note of a suggestion that members of the government should "go more frequently to the people"—"I, conversely, say to them that they should shine less on television screens and do more work...." He listened to harsh criticism of the "press secretary corps," which had risen up like the Berlin wall in the way of the press' obtaining primary information.... S. Torchinskiy's admonitions—"Guys, have a conscience, the premier got away for one hour, and I promised..."—had no effect either on the guys themselves or on the premier: On leaving the studio, the dialogue continued in the corridor, then at the entrance, and even through the window of the premier's black limousine. Does this mean there was something to talk about?

The moral: There is no need to fear a live broadcast and an open discussion with the press and society. Even for a premier.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Launches New Saturday Edition

PM1910084793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

["A Word to the Reader"]

[Text] Dear friends! You are holding the "newborn" KOMSOMOLKA-94. To be more precise, the Saturday edition of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, in next year's model [32-page tabloid dated 15 October 1993 and bearing masthead legend "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Newspaper for Saturday Reading"]. We know that for the majority of you, this year has been particularly difficult and many people are now thinking about what newspaper to subscribe to. If you are in real dire straits, then subscribe to the Saturday edition of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (index 50176 in the IZVESTIYA publishing house catalogue). We want to make the Saturday newspaper a good one, attractive, and as cheerful as possible: to make up the lacking vital spiritual nourishment, so to speak. To be useful: In the Saturday edition—leaf through it—we have even made the actual format half the size of the usual one for more "comfortable" reading in the train, the bus, or even on the sofa. At the same time, as you can see, the Saturday newspaper has become far fatter, that is, it has more in it than the rest of the week's editions. Before January, we will issue three or four editions like this. And as of 1 January 1994 subscribers to the Saturday KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA will receive a newspaper like this every week. We make KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA for you. And so we are very interested in your opinion about the new newspaper. We are waiting for your advice, proposals, wishes, observations. Write to the editorial office (we would ask you to put "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on Saturday" on the envelope). We are prepared to publish the most interesting letters, and we offer a prize for the most useful advice and interesting subjects.

Regional Affairs

Reports on State of Emergency, Curfew in Moscow

Shooting, Weapons Seizures Reported

PM1810131793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Boris Soldatenko report under the "From Our Newsdesk" rubric: "'Rich Haul' From Capital's Curfew"]

[Text] The curfew in Moscow continues. Militia Lieutenant Zolotnitskiy, staffer at the temporary press center under the capital's commandant, has informed KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that during the night of 15 October law enforcement organs' staffers seized three firearms, six knives and sharpened implements, 26 rounds of ammunition, and 3.5 kg of narcotics from criminals.

Unfortunately the night in Moscow did not pass without shooting. Thus, when two people suspected of attacking a firm's office were being detained during the night of 14-15 October, one of the criminals used a weapon against militia staffers. An unknown male was killed as a result of the shoot-out. Two grenades and a firearm were seized from the second detainee.

Spokesman Describes Situation

PM1810132593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Pavel Sviridov, chief of the Temporary Press Center under the State of Emergency Zone Commandant, by Pavel Starchenkov; date and place not stated: "The State of Emergency Is Not a Stage Show"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] It is somewhat more difficult for journalists to do their job right now. The problem, of course, is due to the state of emergency which is in operation in Moscow. Pavel Sviridov, chief of the Temporary Press Center under the State of Emergency Zone Commandant, highlights a few of the peculiarities of the current situation.

[Starchenkov] How would you describe the situation in Moscow?

[Sviridov] The situation has settled down. The number of crimes has fallen by 24 percent. The situation on the streets is much calmer. The capital has virtually been cleared of people who have nowhere to work and no right to live in the city.

[Starchenkov] Several organizations have lodged a protest regarding the eviction of these people, especially persons of Caucasian nationality. What can you say on this score?

[Starchenkov] Under current law, the state of emergency regime provides for some restriction on human rights. In all, since 4 October, just over 3,500 people have been expelled from Moscow. You will agree that this is few for a city of 10 million. In each case, the question of eviction is decided individually, in strict compliance with the law, and in the event of there being significant grounds.

[Starchenkov] There have been complaints about the gross conduct of militia staffers who arrest, search, and sometimes even beat up foreign correspondents...

[Sviridov] Yes, there have been instances of this. Militia Colonel General A. Kulikov, commandant of the state of emergency zone, has brought official charges in response to them. If such instances are repeated, we request that you address your complaints to the representative of the Prosecutor's Office who can be found in every commandant unit, or to the commandant's office either by letter or by telephone on 292-31-52. It is also possible to telephone on a confidential line by dialing 237-55-65. Every case will be examined, and the guilty punished, right up to and including dismissal from internal affairs organs.

But it should be noted that many foreign correspondents provoke this reaction themselves. You get the impression that they see the state of emergency as a regular stage show for the benefit of the Western viewers and readers.

[Starchenkov] Why are correspondents prevented from entering the White House?

[Sviridov] This is not quite correct. It is simply that journalistic "excursions" complicate the work of the operational investigative groups, particularly as the work deadlines set for them by the president are extremely rigid.

Svirdov Gives Statistics

LD1810221993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1423 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct—In the course of the state of emergency in the capital of Russia 1,447 people were detained for various crimes, said Internal Troops Major Pavel Sviridov, head of the press center of the Commandant of the State of Emergency Region in Moscow. In today's interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he described some of the results of the activities undertaken by internal affairs bodies and by the Internal Troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The officer said that during this period 1,159 criminal cases were instituted; 66,916 people were detained for administrative offences and 59,629 of these were held administratively liable. During the curfew, 37,216 people were detained for curfew violations; 9,886 people from out of town were thrown out of Moscow, as they had no valid registration papers.

During the period of the state of emergency, 125 firearms and 137 offensive weapons other than firearms were confiscated by the Militia and Internal Troops; 29 explosive devices were found, along with 4,739 pieces of ammunition of varying caliber; more than 42 kg of drugs were also confiscated. During this period 69,500 motor vehicles were searched and 2,793 of these were impounded.

Twelve civilians were wounded and two killed in incidents involving failure to obey the patrols, attempts to hide and to resist the personnel of the law and order protection bodies and the circumstances of these are being looked into.

Sviridov said that the capital's law and order protection bodies "will not slacken in their campaign to combat crime once the state of emergency has been lifted." "Work will continue to clear Moscow of vagrants, bums, and other low-life elements," he said. "Measures taken to protect public order in Moscow, in particular, the set of regulations governing entry into the capital, the procedures for searching motor vehicles and the patrolling of Moscow's crime areas will be stepped up without prejudicing citizens' rights and freedoms." Sviridov said that "sociological polls among Muscovites showed that most of them supported measures to set things right."

The officer said that consideration can be given in the future to the capital's militia engaged in combating crime to give it a special status.

State of Emergency Lifted

PM1910081593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Oct 93 p 1

[Ruslan Ignatyev report: "Visas Replacing Patrols"]

[Text] The state of the emergency regime in Moscow was lifted as of 0500 hours yesterday [18 October]. Our correspondent telephoned Aleksandr Kulikov, deputy Russian Federation minister of internal affairs and by now former commandant of the capital, and asked him to describe the measures that have been taken in connection with the lifting of the state of emergency.

"I have issued edict No. 10 terminating the functions of the Moscow City Military Commandant's Office and of Commandant's Office Precincts," Aleksandr Nikolayevich said. "The curfew has also been lifted. But transport checks will continue on entering and leaving the city. Certain measures to step up security in the capital will remain in force. The situation in Moscow is normal now and, even though the state of emergency was a measure forced upon us, we are satisfied with the results. The preliminary results of the state of emergency in Moscow will be summed up at a press conference which I will give at 1100 hours 19 October."

Russia's president has backed up Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov's proposal to introduce a so-called visa regime in the capital. In order to obtain further details, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA approached City Hall's State-Legal Administration where we were told that the registration regime is, to all intents and purposes, already in operation. It provides for mandatory registration by all people arriving in the city from nearby foreign countries. Should the administration of any hotel, rest home, or guest house offering accommodations to a visitor fail to observe these requirements, it will be liable to punishment up to and including dismissal from work. The visitor himself will be fined. On the first breach of residence regulations, the amount of the fine will be at least five times the minimum wage. The purpose of the visit will also be taken into account. Fines levied on traders will be much higher. Anyone guilty of repeated breach of the registration regime will be liable to administrative detention for 15 or more days. The culprits will also be deported outside the city limit. This will probably require improvements in the system of deportation from Moscow, because many people return to the city.

'Small Part' of Troops To Remain

PM1910100693 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Pavel Sviridov, chief of the Moscow City commandant's temporary press center, from the column "From Our News Bureau": "Troops Brought In To Enforce the State of Emergency Are Leaving the Capital"]

[Text] The curfew was lifted in Moscow at 0500 hours on 18 October. In accordance with the previous Edict of the Russian Federation President, the state of emergency ceased at 1600.

A small [neznachitelnaya] part of the Russian Army subunits will remain in the city for some time in case of an exacerbation in the crime situation.

Army Units Begin Withdrawal

LD1810192193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The units of the Taman, Kantemir, and Tula divisions that took part in the routing of the mutiny of 3-4 October started leaving Moscow today. The Army units have stayed in Moscow at the instruction of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to enforce the state of emergency in Moscow. Time and history will judge whether the Armed Forces acted correctly by storming the White House and rendering harmless the formations of guerrillas. But one thing is clear now—these boys have saved Russia from a civil war. [Video shows tanks being loaded on railway platforms; soldiers waving good-bye]

Majority of Muscovites Welcome Actions To Restore Order

LD1810163793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] As many as 9,886 people were expelled from Moscow from October 4th to 18th during the state of emergency. Not a single person of Caucasian origin was ousted from the city without a proper reason, the Moscow Commandant's Office told Interfax on Monday [18 October].

Only those who committed crimes or were suspected of doing so were expelled from Moscow. Many other Caucasians hastened to return to their native land, creating the impression that they were being kicked out.

According to the Interior Ministry's sources, 75 percent of Muscovites welcomed the interior bodies' operations to restore order in Moscow. This gives us the moral right, stated the Moscow Commandant's Office, to continue the efforts to clear Moscow of criminals even after the expiration of the state of emergency. In view of this, the leaders of the interior bodies have urged the government to resume the practice of detaining homeless people for up to 30 says and to give the militia the right to search individuals suspected of having committed a [item incomplete as received]

Kalmykia President Interviewed on Role in Recent Events

PM1810115593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Interview with Kalmykia President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov by special correspondent Valeriy Yakov, datelined Elista-Moscow; date not given: "'Peacemaker' Ilyumzhinov Has No Intention of Repenting"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Kalmykia's President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov suddenly appeared at the White House three days before it was stormed and, on behalf of the Federation components, expressed support for parliament, describing it as an "island of freedom." This was a sensational statement at the time because a helping hand had been offered to the deputies by the man who was the first to disband the soviets on "his" territory.

On the day of the storming Ilyumzhinov, carrying a white flag made of curtains from Zorkin's office, made his way to the White House to try and persuade Rutskoy and Khasbulatov to cease resisting and give themselves up.

Following the storming Ilyumzhinov flew back to Elista, having left behind in Moscow his "Lincoln" which had been completely wrecked by the rally participants.

[Yakov] Addressing the besieged parliament by candlelight, you described Yeltsin as "the former president" and recognized Rutskoy as the real president. Now, after everything that has happened, whom do you consider to be the country's head?

[Ilyumzhinov] Boris Nikolayevich's edict of 21 September was anticonstitutional. By all standards of political life, Yeltsin should have been removed from office for this action, as envisaged by Article 121 of the Constitution. Today, however, right is on the side of the stronger, the side of the victor. Even though there were neither victors nor vanquished in this clash, there were only large numbers of victims.

[Yakov] Many people were shocked by your behavior, mainly because it appeared completely illogical. You settled the issue of soviet power in your own republic within just three weeks, having realized that the situation could not have continued for any longer, but, when it was finally decided to disband the conservative parliament at Russian level, you suddenly offered a helping hand to the soviet power. What is this, a political game?

[Ilyumzhinov] It is not a question of whether I offered a helping hand or not. For two years Boris Nikolayevich proved unable to decide how to deal with the Soviets, even though he had described them as the brakes on reforms. Once I was elected, some hotheads started advising me as well to get rid of the Soviets, but I was unwilling to breach the Constitution and ultimately I found the way out. Believe me, that was not easy, I had to meet deputies at all levels, argue with them, persuade them, make promises to them.... But ultimately I succeeded in resolving everything peacefully because we were playing with all our cards on the table. In contrast, Boris Nikolayevich had virtually ceased meeting the speaker and had kept the vice president away from himself for six months; is this the way to function? He surrounded himself with a narrow circle of advisers and made the most serious decisions on the basis of their suggestions....

[Yakov] Nonetheless, your step was perceived by public opinion as outright support for the Supreme Soviet, and at the most critical time at that.

[Ilyumzhinov] People know nothing else here in Russia. You are either red or white, either on the left or on the right. When I disbanded our parliament, Russia's Supreme Soviet dubbed me a Yeltsinite. When I halted privatization, Yeltsin's team accused me of siding with parliament; is this normal?

[Yakov] A story has been circulating recently, claiming that you had some special relations with Rutskoy and the "Revival" Foundation, relations which had certain criminal overtones. Furthermore, there is the mystery about the Chechen fuel oil and the millions in foreign currency.

[Ilyumzhinov] Do you seriously believe that, being associated with numerous commercial structures—and I really am associated with many of them, I would have stood for election as Kalmykia's president knowing that I was involved in corrupt dealings, in affairs involving petrodollars and the manipulation of funds.... I recently read in a Moscow newspaper that I had made $3.8 million from oil sales. If the journalist in question can prove this, I am prepared to hand the millions over to him.

I have also been investigated by the Ministry of Security, the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], the Prosecutor's Office, and even the Army's Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU]. They all sought compromising evidence in order to knock me out of the contest and free the way for General Ochirov. Incidentally, he was also actively supported by his fellow-serviceman Rutskoy, who even issued an address to our citizens. Nonetheless, not a single one of these groups managed to find any compromising evidence against me.

[Yakov] But did they not open a criminal case? It seems that the case has been reopened now.

[Ilyumzhinov] There was no criminal case at all, although there were 38 audits. Yes, they did manage to find $1 million, but this money is frozen not in my account but in the republic of Kalmykia account with the Aeroflot-Bank. As a matter of fact, it was not I but the republic's previous government that was involved in the sale of Chechen fuel oil from which this money was earned.

[Yakov] With all due respect, your arguments do not sound all that convincing, seeing that you would not have ran the risk of attracting attention. There had been so much attention focused on Rutskoy, Barannikov, and Dunayev, but this did not worry them at all.

[Ilyumzhinov] I never had any high-ranking protectors. I met Rutskoy on only three occasions, the last being at the White House; I met Khasbulatov only once or twice. Barannikov and I met only once, when he closed down our KGB. As for Dunayev, I did not know him at all.

[Yakov] Did you try to meet with the president either before or after the storming?

[Ilyumzhinov] I did. On several occasions, as a matter of fact. I called him on the telephone repeatedly. I spent five hours waiting to be received at the Kremlin on 1 October but without success. On the day before [the storming of the White House] Chernomyrdin issued me with a pass to the White House so that I could go there and see for myself the armed gunmen, drug addicts, and drunkards who were inside. Rutskoy guided me around and showed me everything. I don't know, maybe they had all gone into hiding on that occasion, but I saw no armed outsiders there.

Furthermore, I spoke with deputies and many of them were leaning toward the zero option, in favor of self-dissolution. I wanted to tell the president about all this and to persuade him to lift the blockade, agree to meet with Khasbulatov, and resolve everything peacefully. Ilyushin, Filatov, and other apparatus staffers listened to me, but I simply failed to get in touch with Yeltsin.

[Yakov] Do you still believe that Yeltsin alone is to blame for the slaughter which ensued?

[Ilyumzhinov] Both branches of power are to blame. This is precisely why they should have heeded the voice of the Council of Federation [Component] Heads who were striving to act as guarantors of a peaceful solution to the conflict.

[Yakov] Don't you think that you must also bear a share of the blame for the tragedy which occurred? By the time you delivered your words of support to the Congress, the deputies had already spent 10 days isolated from reality and wrongly believed that they were backed by the whole people. Your speech was the last drop which convinced them that the president had fallen. After that, the people's deputies would not have made any further concessions.

[Ilyumzhinov] They were not isolated from life. Their television and radio sets were switched on all the time. Many deputies had toured Moscow and even other cities, and they were well aware of reality.

[Yakov] Did you imagine that a storming was possible?

[Ilyumzhinov] Of course. Immediately after the edict was issued, I realized that the president had taken the hard-line option which could end in calamity.

The appeals in parliament to storm City Hall and "Ostankino" also prompted me to categorically protest.

[Yakov] How did you end up with the white flag outside parliament?

[Ilyumzhinov] We were sitting inside the Constitutional Court building, racking our brains how to put an end to the slaughter. Suddenly we got a telephone call from Rutskoy, saying that they were prepared to hoist the white flag but they were still under fire. At that point we, 10 of us, decided to go to the White House and help to evacuate people from the building. We telephoned Chernomyrdin and Grachev, asking them to cease fire. We fashioned a white flag using Zorkin's curtains and made our way but, for some reason, only Ruslan Aushev and I managed to get to the parliament building. We started going up the stairs but came under sporadic fire, no orders were being obeyed.

We finally got to Khasbulatov's office. He was wearing a white raincoat, somewhat unusually calm. Rutskoy was excited, flashing a brand new assault rifle to all and sundry. Urazhtsev was standing to one side. Oleg Rumyantsev was spread flat on the floor, telephoning Lobov. I saw a 10-year old boy behind Khasbulatov's chair, hiding there from the shots. It appeared that he had ended up inside the White House by accident, he had been at the rally outside, then made his way inside and remained there.

We suggested to Khasbulatov that he should start laying down the arms and evacuating people. They did not argue, they only asked us to organize a guard detail and guarantee that they would not be killed.

[Yakov] How do you explain the fact that not a single deputy was injured, while a huge number of their defenders came under fire and died?

[Ilyumzhinov] A large number of people had assembled at the White House. I saw them gathering in groups on different storeys and hallways. They had managed to break through the cordon the day before and had decided to stay inside the parliament building.

[Yakov] In your opinion, why are the authorities concealing the exact number of those killed?

[Ilyumzhinov] They are probably afraid that the people will be horrified.

[Yakov] Are you aware of their number?

[Ilyumzhinov] No. But I saw for myself not just 50 or 70 killed men in the White House, I saw hundreds. At first they tried to bring them all together in one place, but then they abandoned this idea—it was dangerous to move about. Most of these people were outsiders—unarmed. By the time we arrived there were already more than 500 killed. I think that by the end of the day this figure must have risen to 1,000.

[Yakov] Was there any scenario for the development of events? Was it an accident that the MVD urgently pulled its men off the streets, leaving the city open to plunder and giving the attackers a chance to believe that victory was at hand? And how could Rutskoy send people to storm "Ostankino" thus giving the other side a real opportunity to use force?

[Ilyumzhinov] The scenario came into play immediately following Yeltsin's announcement of the edict. Tough measures were planned and the mechanism for applying them had been worked out. This is precisely why I tried to do something, aware that a major slaughter would ensue.

[Yakov] Talking about the scenario—is this your own assumption, or has there been any specific confirmation of it?

[Ilyumzhinov] There was confirmation. I came into contact with many people, not just in the White House but also from Yeltsin's team, as well as with foreign experts and my friends at different levels; in other words I already had a pretty clear idea of how events would develop, how the press would be used to manipulate public opinion. I also knew that a bloodshed would be provoked to begin with and force would be used afterwards, making it possible not only to overthrow parliament but also to intimidate the regions for the sake of defederalization.

[Yakov] Now, in the wake of everything that has happened, do you not regret the steps which you took?

[Ilyumzhinov] I regret only one thing—that I was unable to do more for the sake of preventing Russians from shooting at Russians. Let them spit at one another, as they do in the Japanese parliament, let them come to blows and curse one another, but keep the assault rifles away, let alone the tanks.

Regional, Local Soviets Continue To Discuss Their Dissolution

Yeltsin Rep Pressures Khabarovsk Soviet

OW1810135693 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0815 GMT 14 Oct 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Vladimir Desyatov, presidential representative in Khabarovsk Kray, intends to suggest abolishing the Kray Soviet of people's deputies to the president. In an interview with VOSTOK radio, he said he would do so if the Smaller Soviet and session of the Kray Soviet do not revoke their decrees refusing to recognize edict No. 1140.

Magadan Soviet Debates Dissolution

OW1810142393 Magadan Radio Magadan in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From the "Oblast News" program]

[Text] A session of the Smaller Soviet of the Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies was held today. The main issue on the agenda was the edict by the Russian president on reforming representative organs of power and organs of local self-rule in the Russian Federation.

The deputies adopted a decision supporting the presidential edict. However, a mixed reaction greeted the proposal for the oblast soviet to disband itself. According to Deputy Butkiyev, the question of bodies disbanding themselves should be discussed in places where there is no mutual understanding between organs of executive and representative power, and where the soviet has no support from the populace.

The Smaller Soviet of the oblast soviet decided to convene a plenary meeting of the session which will resolve the issue of representative authority in the oblast before the elections to the State Duma, which is scheduled for December.

Kemerovo Oblast Soviet Disbanded

PM1810155793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Viktor Kostyukovskiy report: "The 'Inflexible' Kemerovo Oblast Soviet Headed by Tuleyev Has Been Disbanded"]

[Text] Kemerovo—It was an extremely short session. To be precise, it was not a session since they were nearly 40 deputies short of a quorum. That is why the directive of the head of the oblast administration, which properly speaking made no mention of the disbandment of the soviet, was read out immediately. But that was taken for granted because the directive transfers the functions of the representative power to the administration until the election and operation of new organs of representative power and self-management and also places the oblast's property fund under the administration's control.

Then Mikhail Kislyuk, the head of the administration, spoke.

"I think it is no secret to anyone," he said, "that the position of the soviets of people's deputies played a fatal role in the events of 3-4 October in Moscow. Categorical decisions completely rejecting the Russian President's edict 'On phased constitutional reform' similar to the one adopted by you to a large extent prompted the leadership of the former Supreme Soviet to take actions which led to the bloody events..."

It has to be said that on the day before the oblast Inner Soviet completely proved the correctness of that idea by confirming its past decisions on the unconstitutionality of the president's edict and speaking out against the self-disbandment of the oblast soviet.

Mikhail Kislyuk thanked some factions and their leaders and all the deputies for their joint work and said that it was because of them that "it had been possible to avoid upsetting public calm in the oblast and order in the economy of the Kuzbass."

Soviet chairman Aman Tuleyev delivered the closing address and noted the pointlessness of the further work of the soviet in the present circumstances. He described what had happened as the forcible expulsion of the deputies and noted that the previous talk about dyarchy was talk designed "for idiots." Formally speaking, power in the country belongs to the president and presidential structures but in fact it belongs to the mafia, he said. "My position has not changed even after the thunder of the tanks' guns," he said.

The Yurga and Prokopyevsk city soviets and the Novokuznetskiy, Mariinskiy, and Yayskiy rayon soviets in the Kuzbass have now ceased to exist.

17 of 89 Regional Soviets End Activities

LD1810181593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1633 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—Seventeen out of 89 regional councils have already terminated their activities, according to the Russian Presidential Directorate for Work with Regions.

Among them is the parliament of the Republic of Yakutia which voted to disband itself. Similar decisions were made by the councils in the Kirov and Taymyr regions. In the Voronezh, Kaliningrad, Murmansk and Sakhalin regions local councils were dissolved by heads of regional administrations. However, in the Murmansk and Chelyabinsk regions decisions to disband local councils were adopted in violation of the presidential decree of October 9 and they can appeal against them.

Councils were also disbanded in the Ust-Orda, Leningrad and Yaroslavl regions. In territories councils continue to work, directorate officials said.

North Ossetia May Become Presidential Republic

LD1810123993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz October 18 TASS—North Ossetia, a Transcaucasian republic within Russia, may become a presidential republic if the decision of a local parliamentary committee is approved by the legislature.

Stanislav Kesayev, head of the committee on legislation of the local supreme soviet, told TASS on Monday that his committee had discussed how to reform local bodies of power in compliance with the presidential decree.

The discussion centred on whether to preserve the parliamentary rule or introduce the presidential one.

"Proceeding from the present-day realities and the situation in Russia members of the commission decided to choose the presidential form of management in North Ossetia", he said.

Currently the leader of the republic is Parliament Chairman Akhsarbek Galazov.

Tatarstan To Reform Councils, Prepare for New Elections

LD1810130593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan October 18 TASS—Despite previous claims for Tatarstan's total independence from Russia, the republican leaders, parliament and the republican cabinet adopted a decision on reforming Tatar councils at all the levels.

"Tatar citizens will actively participate in the general elections to an all-Russian Duma and a Federation Council (eds: lower and upper chambers of a new parliament) on December 12," Republican President Mintimer Shaymiyev told a session of the Tatar parliament on Monday.

The main task of restructuring is to form permanently operating competent and representative bodies with a small number of deputies. This will be a bicameral people's assembly in the republic: a legislative chamber consisting of 63 deputies and a numerically similar chamber of representatives who will be elected from every administrative entity.

Cities and districts will elect similar people's assemblies, while rallies in villages will elect an administrative head.

On the president's proposal, new elections on a multiparty basis should be held no later than the first quarter of the next year. Legislators began to debate the president's proposal.

To Participate in 12 Dec Elections

LD1810180893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tatarstan will take part in the elections to the State Duma and Federation Council on 12 December. This was announced at a session of the Supreme Soviet of Tatarstan by Mintimer Shaymiyev, president of the republic.

Deputies Propose Vote on Parliament, President

LD1810223493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The deputies of Tatarstan's parliament on Monday [18 October] discussed the issues of reforming state federal and republican organs of power.

The majority of the speakers admitted the necessity of the republic's representation in the State Duma and the Federation Council. At the same time they doubted the effectiveness of the Duma's work.

One member of the presidium, Fandas Safiullin, proposed to stress the fact that the reforms of the state power in Tatarstan had been forced "by external influences and a situation dangerous to Tatarstan's sovereignty and statehood."

The deputies also expressed their concern that once the draft Constitution of the Russian Federation is approved Tatarstan may be made to sign the Federation Treaty. They made a proposal to hold on December 12 a referendum on confidence in the present Supreme Soviet of Tatarstan and the president.

The Tatar deputies' term of office expires in one and a half years.

President Comments

LD1810200593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The President of Tatarstan, Mintimer Shaymiyev, qualified the Russian president's and government's actions on October 3 and 4 as "actions adequate to the armed attack on the legitimate authorities." He told the Tatar parliament on Monday that the current situation obliged the Russian leaders to ensure genuine, not forced, accord in society.

Shaymiyev also said that no resolutions on the president's decree No. 1400 were taken in Tatarstan. Neither was Tatarstan involved in the establishment of the [anti-presidential] Council of the Subjects of the Federation on September 30. The republic withstood that test, thanks to sovereignty and ethnic accord on the basis of its own constitution, said Shaymiyev.

He proposed reorganizing Tatarstan's representative bodies through early elections on a multi-party basis. He believes that early elections should be held during the period from January to March 1994. He proposed that the Legislative Assembly, as laid out in the constitution, be called Khalyk Mejlis (People's Assembly) and consist of two chambers—legislative and representative—each one having 63 deputies.

Meanwhile, the deputies did not include in the agenda the question of reorganizing the bodies of authority. Aware of the importance of self-reorganization, the deputies at the same time oppose early elections.

Volgograd Oblast Reorganizes Structures of Power

PM1810152993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Vitaliy Cherkasov report: "Number of Soviets Per Capita"]

[Text] All city, rayon, settlement, and rural soviets in Volgograd Oblast have dissolved themselves as of 9 October. The local administration is performing their functions. A Federal State Commission for Questions of the Reform of the Representative Branch of Power and the Organization of Local Self-Government has been set up by an edict of the Russian Federation president.

Yevgeniy Kuznetsov, the president's representative in Volgograd Oblast, comments on the situation in the run-up to the election:

Under soviet rule it was always as follows: The people at the top did the thinking and the people below the work. Therefore, the question of reforming the representative organs of power gathered momentum long ago and the tragic events in Moscow only gave it an additional impetus.

It has been decided to do without the soviets in eight rayons within Volgograd itself. You only need a small but efficient and qualified city duma to rule the city.

The future organ of executive power in Volgograd has actually been named the duma. The oblast duma is small, comprising 30 deputies. There being so few of them, each will get the opportunity to clearly outline his views. Apart from this, it will be possible to avoid negative situations such as when envoys from the territories were clearly lobbying for the resolution of questions in their favor or, to be more precise, in favor of the power structures they represented.

In the coming days candidates will be nominated in all four Volgograd Oblast districts to run for deputies to both Federal Assembly chambers. There is an opinion that only lawyers, economists, and the like should be elected to the new organ. It seems to me that this is in no way mandatory. It is enough that a deputy working on a permanent basis in the duma is obliged to really get to grips with the problems of his district, be able to read and interpret documents, and properly understand every phrase of this or that draft law. As well, of course, as being a respected and honest person.

There will henceforth be no obvious leader cum semi-dictator in the oblast duma with his own non-state funds. The speaker, whose powers are clearly delineated and limited, will conduct sessions. It is not his business to determine awards and the size of wages. Generally speaking, the presence of a leader always leads to vertical subordination, which is impermissible in a representative organ as it is incompatible with democratic principles where the initiative should come from below.

Chernomyrdin Promises Aid for Astrakhan Oblast

PM1810140993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" rubric: "Trip Completed"]

[Text] The two-day working visit by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, to Astrakhan Oblast ended yesterday. During the morning the head of the Russian cabinet held a conference with the oblast administration leadership, was briefed on progress in housing construction in the city, and visited the "Astrakhangazprom" gas and chemical complex.

Viktor Chernomyrdin told journalists that a Russian Government decree will be prepared in the near future on the basis of the results of his meetings and conferences, which will define the way in which federal organs will participate in the provision of aid to Astrakhan Oblast to resolve the region's basic problems.

Yakut Republic Denies Separatist Intentions

LD1810130293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—The president of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) rejected allegations about separatist intentions of the major Russian diamond producer.

Reports that Yakutia plans to introduce its own currency are misinformation, Mikhail Nikolayev told the "ORIENTAL EXPRESS" weekly. "It is beyond imagination. There are no such plans at all", he said and also denied rumours that the republic is planning to secede from Russia, is depositing its gold in foreign banks and independently selling diamonds. The rumours are spread "so that there is no Mighty Russia", the president stressed.

Nikolayev said that Yakutia which is mining 97 per cent of all Russian diamonds is planning to commission 12 new diamond cutting factories by the end of next year. Four such factories are already working. Yakutia produced gold and silver jewelry worth five billion roubles, he added.

The president pins great hopes on the construction of a railway to Yakutia which will "result in a revolution in our social development in 4-5 years".

Censorship Moves in St. Petersburg Supported

PM1810122993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Yuriy Kukanov: "Their Press Should Have Been Closed Long Ago"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Some 24 hours after the president's edict on the stage-by-stage constitutional reform, the "Pobeda" radio station (registered at the Russian Ministry of the Press and Information 28 October 1992 no. 02120 urged readers on the city's radio network to take up weapons and come to the deputies' defense. Viktor Monakhov, chief of the St. Petersburg regional inspectorate for the protection of the freedom of the press and the mass media, told me that in contravention of the law, the radio station staffers are refusing to supply a recording of the broadcast. According to Monakhov in response to a request to make a copy of the recording available Vladimir Shults, administration deputy chief of the Russian Security Ministry, first stated that the security service had made no intercepts at the time when, let me note, the political situation had been drastically aggravated. Later he promised to help.

"Help" is still being rendered but "Pobeda" is behaving as though nothing had happened although, it is true, not now calling for violence. It looks as though there is not a single cloud on the horizon of the radio provocateurs.

Of the five contact telephone numbers given to listeners by the "Pobeda" provocateurs three were at the Smolnyy in the editorial office of NARODNAYA PRAVDA which is essentially an organ of the Russian Communist Workers Party Central Committee. In this newspaper Nikolay Pavlov, a leader of the parliamentary opposition, expatiated at length about how "the Belovezhskaya forest traitors should be shot on the spot." Today the newspaper's production has been suspended and the "truth lovers" who had been on the point of barricading themselves in were expelled from the premises they occupied. But questions remain: Why did no one, including those whose official duty it was, notice in NARODNAYA PRAVDA material which could be assessed as a call to violence? Why did the norm of the law start to work only under the effect of the president's special edict?

Today no one needs to be told the price society has to pay for connivance with the red-browns' onslaughts. It is well known. St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak has been obliged to recognize that the policy of trying to persuade the extremists and criminals was wrong: "We must all finally understand that state power cannot treat calmly calls for its overthrow because that threatens each person's life, freedom, and rights."

It is a week since the city mayor made this statement on the banks of the Neva. Not a single one of the public organizations, except for the Officer Union, banned by the president's edict has ceased its activity. At the president's mission in St. Petersburg they are waiting for explanations regarding the closure of these organizations' bank accounts. Only on 8 October did the city hall justice administration officially state that it was "drawing the attention of the city's banking institutions to the need to halt financial operations involving these organizations' bank accounts."

It is true that the broadcasting of "600 seconds" has been suspended since 4 October. A program which viewers have long been calling the "10-minute hate." Aleksandr Nevzorov, an "academician" and guerrilla reporter, as he likes to call himself, was invited (for the umpteenth time!) to the city prosecutor's office for a "talk." The St. Petersburg prosecutor's office is pretending that that it is totally unaware that the content of the "600 seconds" program should be a subject for the attention of the law enforcement organs: It was they who regularly and hysterically predicted the start of a "nationwide uprising."

The program's unseemly role was also mentioned in the letter to the Russian general prosecutor signed, on instructions from the creative intelligentsia, by Dmitriy Likhachev, Natalya Bekhtereva, Andrey Petrov, Daniil Granin, Galina Vishnevskaya, and Mstislav Rostropovich.

The members of the editorial office of the antifascist journal BARYER, published in St. Petersburg, have also sent the president a telegram speaking of the danger of any impunity for the fascists. There are plenty of grounds for such statements. In the spring of this year for instance, the Supreme Court left in force the St. Petersburg City Court's acquittal of Viktor Bezverkhiy, who had published Hitler's notorious "Mein Kampf" with a preface which asserts that this work could be quite a good textbook for the struggle against the Jews in our country. When he was searched, the publisher had confiscated from him an oath written in his own blood to devote his entire life to fighting the "yids."

Historical logic is increasingly resolutely equating fascism and communism. It is probably only in Russia, as it agonizingly tears off the fetters of the totalitarian Bolshevik past, that formations which preach racial intolerance and class hatred can be called by the respectable word "opposition." Some of our democratic establishment are not averse to grieving for their fate, recalling Voltaire.

A year ago the Russian Christian Democrats appealed to the international court of human rights in Strasbourg, asking for a trial of the misanthropic ideology of communism. Strasbourg was silent but the fascist thugs of the Communist Anpilov started talking to their hearts' content. Those who are prepared to object I suggest should turn to the great book "The Gulag Archipelago": "We must denounce publicly the very idea of reprisals by some people against others," A. Solzhenitsyn writes. "By keeping quite about a sin, driving it inward so that it does not come out, we are sowing it and it will spring up a thousandfold in the future."

Maritime Kray To Regulate Stay of Foreigners

OW1810145093 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0310 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the "Lunch Hour Break" program]

[Text] According to the press service of the Maritime Kray Administration, a decree has been adopted on measures which introduce temporary procedures regulating the stay of foreign citizens on the territory of the Maritime Kray.

In this connection, heads of administrations of Maritime Kray towns and rayons will have to define the procedures for granting permits to foreigners permitting their stay in hotels, motels, and other residences until the end of October, and to allocate and furnish special lots to foreign merchants on which to carry out their trade.

A list of kray education facilities which have the right to accept foreign students must be prepared by 25 October.

Moreover, a special foundation will be formed for transporting to their places of permanent residence all foreigners who violated the temporary rules regulating foreign citizens' remaining on the territory of the Maritime Kray, and foreign guests who became victims of crime.

Zelenograd Plant Assembles IBM Computers

PM1810160393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Report by Aleksandr Lutskoy and Yuriy Kovalenko; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Lutskoy] A PS-1 office computer assembly line has started up at the "Nauchnyy Tsentr" [Scientific Center] firm's "Kvant" plant in Zelenograd. These computers will bear the trademark of IBM, the world's largest computer company. All the components and equipment have been supplied from IBM's Scottish subsidiary, where our engineers have been trained, incidentally.

Over the last four years the proportion of military orders has dropped almost 20-fold at Zelenograd's electronics enterprises. But their experience and skill have not remained untapped. Leonard Krug [as heard], general director of the company's Russian branch, pointed out that the Zelenograd workers' professional standards are extremely high, and this should accordingly ensure that their output is of a high quality. By the end of the month the first 400 computers will have rolled off the production line. And once the final fine-tuning is complete the plant will be manufacturing 2,000 computers a month.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Discusses Upcoming Germany Visit, Other Issues

LD1810181693 Hamburg DPA in German 1638 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev (DPA)—President Leonid Kravchuk has said Ukraine wants to continue to take in Russian ethnic Germans from the other former Soviet republics. "Before the war around 400,000 Germans lived in the country," Kravchuk said today in an interview with (DPA). He and Chancellor Helmut Kohl have commissioned their governments to determine a status for possible resettlers who had not been deported from Ukraine. However, Kiev has to consider other nations who were expelled from their home country during the Second World War, such as the Crimean Tatars. So far around 2,000 Russian ethnic Germans have resettled in Ukraine.

Kravchuk, who will visit Germany for the third time on Friday, told DPA: "Relations between us are developing well." Most joint ventures are with Germany. However, to increase the volume of trade, which is dropping at the present time, Ukraine needs better access to German and European markets: "Ukraine needs quotas for the products which it can export, such as steel." On the other hand, Kiev legislation is impeding imports into Ukraine. "We have to solve these two problems," Kravchuk said.

He reaffirmed his commitment to democratic and market economy reforms. He wants to introduce various legislation projects before the planned parliamentary elections in Ukraine in March: "They should serve to prevent the country returning to the old system at any time."

The Ukrainian president, who will take part in a conference on European security during his visit to Germany, renewed his proposal for a central European security zone. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries such as Ukraine and Poland no longer belong to any security system. "This zone should not be a military bloc but one of cooperation between countries which rounds off the Helsinki and Paris agreements and increases our security," he said.

The president complained that Ukraine's opinion is often not heard in other countries or is incorrectly portrayed: "Our brothers in Russia frequently only give a distorted version of our positions." Reports on the Ukraine has to come from the country itself, Kravchuk said when he met the DPA director Walter Richtberg at the official opening of the Kiev DPA office.

Navy Chief Wants Better Ties With Black Sea Fleet

LD1810115593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—"We must rule out hostility in relations with the Black Sea Fleet, even though it has been accumulated throughout many years," Commander of the Ukrainian Naval Forces, Vice-Admiral Vladimir Bezkorovainy told journalists in Sevastopol today.

Admiral Bezkorovainy who was appointed to post a few days ago by the Ukrainian president's decree stressed that he was in Sevastopol on a goodwill mission and hoped to reach complete mutual understanding with the commandment [as received] of the Black Sea Fleet.

The Ukrainian admiral called for civilised relations with the commandment with the Russian Black Sea Fleet but stressed that he would not recognise "a one-sided civility".

Bezkorovainy said he was planning to hold a military council of the Ukrainian Navy on relations with the Black Sea Fleet and wanted to invite Black Sea Fleet officials to attend.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Black Sea Fleet, Russia

BR1810154993 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 15 Oct 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk by Bert Lanting in Amsterdam; date not given]

[Text] For the last year and a half Russia and the Ukraine have been arguing about the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union and the division of the Black Sea Fleet, the bases of which are in Ukraine. However, the end is not yet in sight, as was shown in an interview with the main negotiator on the Ukrainian side, Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk, who was in the Netherlands for a brief visit.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine over the Black Sea Fleet and the nuclear legacy of the Soviet Union is far from over. The agreement in principle reached by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk last month would probably not be presented to the Ukrainian Parliament, according to Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk.

The two former Soviet republics have been squabbling over the military assets of the former Soviet Union for more than one and a half years now. Early last month they seemed to have suddenly made a breakthrough. During a summit meeting in Massandra, on the Krim peninsula, Yeltsin and Kravchuk reached agreement in principle on a solution, under which Ukraine would sell half of the Black Sea Fleet to Russia. Also, the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory would be transferred to Russia—for financial compensation.

But that was a misunderstanding, according to Deputy Minister Tarasyuk, responsible for the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet and the nuclear weapons. "The world's media have given an excessively positive image of the Massandra summit," he said. "The impression was given that the matter was settled. However, that is not the case. No agreement was made on the Black Sea Fleet and the nuclear weapons."

The international press had the wool pulled over its eyes by the Russian delegation, Tarasyuk said. "They wanted to pretend that there had been a breakthrough," he said. "Perhaps it was wishful thinking. But in any event it was a misleading image."

He strongly denied that there was an agreement, and also that President Kravchuk had executed a speedy turnaround after the results of the Russian-Ukrainian summit were strongly criticized in the Ukrainian Parliament. "Kravchuk did not do a turnaround," Tarasyuk said. "When he returned to Kiev, right from the start he said that the sale of half the fleet to Russia was only a suggestion, no more than one of the ideas which would have to be examined."

Tarasyuk did not exclude the possibility that ultimately Kiev would be ready to "sell" its share of the 380 ships in the Black Sea Fleet to Russia, but first agreement would have to be reached on compensation and a formula found for the rental of the naval facilities in Sebastopol on the Krim peninsula.

As for the nuclear legacy of the Soviet Union, it seemed at one point that a breakthrough really would be made in Massandra, the Ukrainian politician said. However, at the last minute the negotiations got blocked, because Russia refused to pay compensation for the approximately 3,000 tactical nuclear weapons which Ukraine has already handed over, although the presidents of the two countries had a spoken agreement to that effect, Tarasyuk said.

"It is always the same problem," he said. "They deny us our due. Whether it is the assets of the former Soviet Union, the currency reserves, or the real estate of the former Soviet Union at home and abroad, they simply do not want to give us our rightful share." As long as no agreement has been reached on payment for the tactical nuclear weapons, then the Ukrainian Government will not present the agreements on the nuclear weapons to parliament.

There are currently 176 intercontinental nuclear missiles on Ukrainian territory, namely 130 SS-19's and 46 SS-24's, with 1,240 nuclear warheads. In addition there are approximately 40 strategic bombers with around 500 nuclear warheads.

Since the Soviet Union fell apart at the end of 1991, Ukraine has repeatedly emphasized that it did not want to become a nuclear power, and therefore was prepared to give up the nuclear weapons. That still held true, Tarasyuk said. President Kravchuk and the government were in favor of signing both the Nonproliferation Treaty—which is intended to stop the spread of nuclear weapons—and the START-1 treaty, under which some of the nuclear missiles stationed in Ukraine must also be removed. However, the question is far more sensitive in the Ukrainian Parliament. There is considerable opposition to giving up the nuclear weapons, through which the country would lose superpower status in one blow.

Tarasyuk hoped that the Ukrainian Parliament would restart examining the START-1 treaty next month, after a suspension some months ago. But it was open to question whether it would be approved, because first a settlement would have to be made with Russia on the compensation for the tactical nuclear weapons, Tarasyuk emphasized.

In addition Kiev is demanding billions of guilders in aid for the dismantling of the nuclear weapons, and security guarantees from the permanent members of the Security Council. Ukraine wanted guarantees in the event of a military attack, and guarantees that it would not be a victim of economic pressure, Tarasyuk said. These seem to be very extensive demands. Should the Big Five intervene militarily if Ukraine were to be attacked? "No, we are realistic," Tarasyuk said. "We too know that even solid guarantees often mean little once a military conflict has broken out. What it is about for us is to prevent such a conflict breaking out."

He accused Russia of trying to put his country under pressure by opposing maintenance activities for the nuclear weapons. Last month the Russian press reported increased radioactivity in a nuclear warhead storage area on the Pervomaysk [as published] base. Tarasyuk admitted that there were problems, although they were "not serious," he said. "We have proposed moving the nuclear warheads to other storage places," he said. "But the Russians do not want to. In this way they are trying to create artificial problems and put us under pressure."

Tarasyuk consoled himself with the thought that the power struggle in Moscow did not turn out differently. "That would have been a disaster," Tarasyuk said. He pointed out that Rutskoy in particular had always insisted that the Krim and Sebastopol belonged to Russia. "If Rutskoy and Khasbulatov had won, a new cold war would have broken out," he said. "Only this time we would have stood on the other side of the trenches."

Russian Black Sea Ships Picketed in Nikolayev

LD1810193693 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1320 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Representatives of the city's public and political organizations began unauthorized picketing of Black Sea Fleet ship squadrons currently stationed here for repairs. They have demanded that these squadrons be transferred to Ukraine's Defense Ministry subordination, that Ukraine stop financing the Black Sea Fleet, and that the "Slava" missile cruiser be withdrawn from its territory as a foreign ship. They offered the commander, Captain 1st Rank Yuriy Yaroshenko [name as received] to swear a loyalty oath to Ukraine and transfer the unit to its jurisdiction. Yuriy Doroshenko [name as received] refused to comply with the picketers' demands. The picketing continues on and off.

Sailors Demand Banning Political Organization, Paper

AU1910110793 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 15 Oct 93 p 1

//[Volodymyr Prytula report]

[Text] Naval seaman of the patrol combatant "Hetman Sahaydachnyy" appealed to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia calling upon them to use their authority to ban the activity of the so-called Coordination Council of the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assembly—a political organization active in the Black Sea Fleet without being registered anywhere and without being provided for by any legal documents. They also demand that the Black Sea newspaper FLAG RODINY [the Flag of the Motherland], which is known for its "dislike" for both Russian President B. Yeltsin and Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk, be banned. This is stated in the address adopted at the general staff meeting of the patrol combatant "Hetman Sahaydachnyy." The naval seamen believe that the activity of the Officers' Assembly Coordination Council and the publication of FLAG RODINY are aimed against dividing the Black Sea Fleet in a civilized manner, at undermining any Ukrainian-Russian accords, and at stirring up interethnic hostility at fleet bases. It appears that one should agree with the sailors who state that leaders of the Coordination Council of the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assembly have disgraced themselves by their close ties with leaders of Russian pro-fascist organizations, deputies of the disbanded Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, and former Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy. However, it looks like the presidents have lately been inclined to heed the opinion of the Coordination Council. One gets an impression that they do not care that this organization exists, to put it mildly, on a dubious legal basis.

State Border Agreements Signed With Slovakia

LD1810223093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] In Bratislava, Andrey Vasylyshyn, Ukrainian internal affairs minister; Valeriy Hubenko, Ukrainian State Border Protection Committee chairman; and Jozef Tuchyna, Slovak Republic internal affairs minister, signed agreements between Ukraine and the Republic of Slovak... on the common state border and the conditions of its operation, and on cooperation. Members of the Ukrainian delegation were received by the head of Slovakia's government, Vladimir Meciar.

This was reported by the press service of the Ukrainian Border Troops.

National Affairs

Decree Issued To Improve Administrative Operations

WS1810131493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 18 Oct 93

["Text" of decree issued by President Leonid Kravchuk; place and date not given]

[Text] In an effort to better organize and raise the quality of work performed by organs of the state executive branch, and to provide for the employment of highly qualified staff, I hereby decree:

—to hire staff for the administration of the Ukrainian president, Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, and other central organs of the state executive branch on a competitive basis.

—to use contracts for the employment of staff in the organs of the state executive branch for performing single-task assignments—drafting certain normative acts and other such documents.

—to carry out a one-time certification of the staff of the administration of the Ukrainian president, Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, and other central organs of the state executive branch by 1 January 1994.

—to charge the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers with drafting and adopting procedures for implementing competitive hiring and the one-time certification of the aforementioned staff.

—to introduce monthly salary increases based on the long-term service record of personnel in the state organs—between 10 and 40 percent of a monthly salary—to the members of the Ukrainian Government, representatives of the presidential administration in the provinces, staff of the Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, and other central organs of the state executive branch by 1 November 1993.

—to charge the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers with drafting and adopting procedures for granting and paying monthly salary increases based on the long-term service record of the above-mentioned staff.

Kravchuk Issues Decree on Provision of Food Resources

LD1810182793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has issued a directive making provision for the formation of national food and forage resources. In particular, should state procurement and processing enterprises and organizations lack funds in procuring resources, the latter may be carried out by them, by means of the supply of fuel, machinery, equipment, and consumer goods to producers in exchange [for their produce]. Agricultural raw material may be stored and processed on a contractual basis irrespective of the purpose it is to be used. Agricultural producers are exempted from the payment of value-added tax, provided the state target is met by them, and from the payment of export and import duties in barter exchange.

It is recommended that the Ukrainian Agricultural Produce and Economy Ministries should take measures to reduce the cost of balanced fodder and protein-containing supplements, sold by the state [word indistinct] chemical industry and the stock breeding complex. The text of the directive will be made public.

National Security, Elections Set as Top Priorities

LD1810213293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium held a session on 18 October. Such issues were discussed as the organization of further work of the Supreme Council, and a preliminary order of the consideration of issues at plenary sessions on 19-22 October.

It is planned that the issue of the condition of, and measures to ensure the national security of Ukraine, and a draft law on elections of Ukrainian people's deputies, will be considered comprehensively as a matter of priority. A group of issues of the social sphere, in particular a draft law on the status of war veterans and guarantees of their social protection, that had been finalized in accordance with the seventh session's decision, and a draft law on the main provisions of social protection of labor veterans and other senior citizens, were included in the preliminary order of the consideration of issues at plenary sessions. [passage omitted]

Vice Prime Minister Heads Privatization Task Force

LD1810230493 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2128 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev, 18 Oct—Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Landyk has been put in charge of a working group set up by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers to work out proposals to step up the process of privatization in Ukraine. It was formed from heads of ministries and departments, scientific personnel and managers of enterprises.

Navy Chief Says 'Smaller' Ships Needed for Black Sea

PM1810141993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[UNIAN report specially for IZVESTIYA: "Ukrainian Naval Commander Believes National Fleet Does Not Need Strategic Vessels"]

[Text] Vice Admiral V. Beskaravaynyy, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, has noted in an interview with UNIAN that the republic's Navy does not need the Black Sea Fleet ships designed for missions in the Mediterranean or the world's oceans. In his opinion, Ukraine needs to emphasize building primarily smaller and medium-sized highly maneuverable vessels.

Two-Thirds of Eligible Conscripts Receive Deferments

LD1810183993 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1320 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received] As it has become known from well-informed sources, Major General Anatoliy Palamarchuk, chief of the General Staff's Organization and Mobilization Directorate, said at an official meeting of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense's Chief of Staff that of the 100,000 people subject to be conscripted into the Army this autumn, two-thirds received deferments from military service for one reason or another.

Rukh Leader Outlines Election Program

AU1910091293 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 14 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of Ukraine's People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka], by RUKH-PRESS correspondent Taras Shamayda; place and date not given]

[Text] [Shamayda] There are two very important issues on the agenda of the Supreme Council's eighth session: the new Constitution and the new law on the elections of people's deputies. What is Rukh's attitude toward the discussion of these documents?

[Chornovil] The work that has been started must be completed, and a qualitatively new election law must be adopted. In fact, it is precisely in order to see to it that this law is adopted that we sit in this Supreme Council and haven't left it. This is the main issue, because the composition of the future parliament depends upon the mechanism of the elections. The mechanism proposed by Rukh envisages elections based on lists of political parties, as is traditionally the practice in developed countries. In our conditions, this mechanism would make it impossible for the former nomenklatura or random adventurers to take advantage of the absence of deep-rooted multi-party traditions and gather votes in the guise of "independent" or "nonaligned" candidates. However, we realize that the nomenklatura majority in the Supreme Council will be opposed to the adoption of such a law. That is why we are ready to agree to a mixed system based upon a compromise: Some deputies (as many as possible) should be elected according to party lists, and others in accordance with the majority system as has been common practice in our country. Besides, the election law must envisage elections of a professional parliament where the deputies will work on a permanent basis without remaining, at the same time, directors of plants, chairmen of collective farms, or workers of commercial structures.

As regards the Constitution, its adoption by the available deputies corps is absolutely pointless. Its discussion at the session is simply a waste of time.

[Shamayda] On 27 March, citizens of the country will, probably, have the last chance to elect a parliament worthy of Ukraine. What will Rukh propose in its election program?

[Chornovil] This will rather be the first real chance, because the elections in 1990 were conducted in conditions when the Ukrainian SSR still existed, as well as the single-party system, and under an almost full control of the communist nomenklatura.

We will use the Concept of State Building that was adopted by the Fourth All-Ukrainian Assembly of People's Rukh as a foundation for our election program. It was elaborated by well-known economists, doctors of sciences Oleksandr Savchenko and Volodymyr Chernyak; well-known lawyer Serhiy Holovatyy; Minister of Environmental Protection Yuriy Kostenko; Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Questions of Culture Les Tanyuk; candidate of medical sciences Valeriy Ivasyuk, and others. The concept outlines mechanisms for the creation of a pluralistic society, an effective system of power, and ways for placing Ukraine on the rails of a market economy and effective production. We propose a comprehensive method for emerging from the crisis, a method that, in addition to economic stabilization and political reforms, also provides for a system of protection of the poorest and guarantees Ukraine's national security—economic, political, military, ecological, as well as reform of the system of health protection, education, and so on. After taking into account observations offered by scientists, managers, and politicians, we will have a final election program. I think that no other political force will have such a solid, comprehensive, and perfectly realistic program, which will not simply be a populist one like that of Socialists.

[Shamayda] Can you name possible candidates for the parliament from Rukh?

[Chornovil] This will be determined by our leading organs in coordination with local organizations. Apparently, those figures who, today, actively work in Rukh will be the main candidates. However, there are here quite a number of variants, and much will depend upon the election system. In any case, we must find a golden mean between the most extensive representation of regions and the maximum number of professional lawyers and so on, those who prevail in the capital and who, unfortunately, are not always known in the regions.

[Shamayda] How high are generally Rukh's and the opposition's chances of winning in the elections?

[Chornovil] Everything depends on how well the democratic forces will be able to unite and whether the Democrats will be able to overlook the small differences among them and personal ambitions. Complete unity and the creation of a single alliance of all opposition forces are hardly realistic today, but we must, at least, agree on the main principles of the pre-election struggle. For example, forming blocs in certain regions, giving up mutual antagonisms, and reaching agreements on the support for a single candidate in the second round [of elections]. If there is, at least, such relative unity, our chances will be quite high: I hope that a broad coalition—from Liberal Democrats to National Democrats—will get one-half of the votes in the parliament and will be able to start vital reforms.

However, even if the victory is not complete, the parliament will, first, be structured into political factions with a distinct policy, and there will no longer be that chaos as prevails now. Second, the communist nomenklatura will no longer be in full control there.

Time dictates the need of radical reforms, without which there cannot be any progress. That is why those forces that gain a victory in the elections will have to proceed along this road. We do not have any other alternative, because we cannot afford to just mark time the way it has been done by the present authorities. Otherwise we will be faced with a catastrophe.

Rukh Leader Protests Communist Party Registration

AU1910092093 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 39 (120), Oct 93 p 2

["Statement by Ukraine's People's Rukh [Movement for Perestroyka] in Connection With the Registration of Ukraine's Communist Party on 7 October 1993"; date not given]

[Text] In those troubled days when the communofascist forces tried to suppress Russian democracy, with the help of weapons, Ukraine's Ministry of Justice registered the Communist Party.

The registration of a structure that builds its activity upon the Marxist-Leninist ideology, which has been condemned throughout the civilized world, especially against the background of the fact that procommunist organizations have been banned in Russia and in other postcommunist countries, undermines the authority of the Ukrainian state in the eyes of the world public and may only be looked upon as a direct challenge to democracy.

It is perfectly understandable that, having sanctioned the registration of the said party, Minister of Justice Vasyl Onopenko received broad support from the procommunist part of the parliament when his appointment to the post needed to be approved.

However, one cannot help feeling surprised that Mr. Onopenko also received support from some deputies who are members of the People's Council, those who raised the question of boycotting the approval of the conservative government headed by Kravchuk and Zvyahilskyy.

We believe that the major task of all democratic forces is the participation in the process of decommunization of Ukrainian society, a process that is in progress in post-communist states.

[Signed] Chairman of Ukraine's People's Rukh Vyacheslav Chornovil

Nationalist Groups Threaten To Start Terrorism

LD1810115993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov October 18 TASS—While the Ukrainian Justice Ministry and Lvov authorities think what to do with Ukrainian unregistered paramilitary nationalist groups, local farmers have found work for them: to guard crops in their fields.

Managers of industrial enterprises and wholesalers also look for contacts with them.

The leaders of Ukrainian nationalists are waiting for a regular session of the Ukrainian parliament which will seal the fate of an amendment to the Criminal Code. Following the October events in Moscow, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk insists on disbanding illegal paramilitary groups formed in Ukraine now.

However, nationalist leaders believe that the bill was specially drafted for their organisation to remove an influential political force before the general parliamentary elections.

Nationalist leaders Andrey Shkil and Oleg Vitovich recently told a news conference in Lvov that if their organisation is disbanded, they would go underground, unleashing terrorist acts against law enforcement bodies and authorities.

Government To Relay TV Programs to Europe by 1994

PM1910090593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 5

[Report by Olga Sergeyeva: "Ukrainian Communications Ministry's European Dimension"]

[Text] Kiev—Since the breakup of the USSR we have become accustomed to saying: "All links are broken." This conclusion governs the life and future of the Communications Ministry. The performance of its humane function of helping people keep in touch with one another by telephone and by letter is deteriorating all the time.

"In terms of the development of the telephone network Ukraine has covered one lap compared with the developed countries' three," republic Communications Minister O. Prozhivalskiy said. But this was the only somber note in the minister's speech. He had summoned the press to announce that by the year 2005 the ministry will fully satisfy the demands of state management organs, the production and economic sector, and ordinary citizens.

The minister went on to a picture of 2005 which was almost fantastic in its splendor and perfection. For example, seven out of 10 city families will have telephones in their apartments and our televisions will start receiving at least four channels. The quality of intercity telephone communications will be world-class and documentary telecommunications (fax, videotext, electronic press), currently in an embryonic state, will be fully developed.

"In 1994 we also plan to relay Ukrainian television programs to the whole of Europe. Initially using existing foreign systems, and later via our own national satellite," the minister said, still doling out the sensations. The invited journalists became livelier still. According to the majority of Ukrainian television viewers and the professional experts, this show clearly should be delayed for a while—in order not to startle Europe...

But the most interesting question was as follows: Where will the ministry find the massive sums of money to carry out its plans given the well-known colossal budget deficit? The press release distributed to journalists did not answer the question. Mr. Prozhivalskiy was not giving away any professional secrets either. All he said was that he pinned great hopes on the program for the further conversion of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex, and also private capital. In order to make this sector attractive to businessmen the minister would like to separate low-profile mail and profitable telecommunications, thus providing the latter with a long-term boost. So I suppose pigeons will start distributing the mail, since they can survive without hard currency. (endall) 16 oct cd/ml 19/0920z oct WC 391

Belarus

PRC Official Says China To Continue Nuclear Tests

LD1810183593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature:]

[Text] China is in favor of holding talks on banning nuclear tests, but it will continue them until an appropriate treaty is signed. This was announced at a news conference in Minsk on Monday [18 October] by China's Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei.

In answer to a question on when China intended to conduct its next nuclear test, Tian Zengpei said: We have a very cautious approach to conducting nuclear tests.

China carried out its latest nuclear test after a long moratorium on October 4. According to experts in Russia's Foreign Ministry, this step might prompt the other members of the "Nuclear Club," Russia among them, to revise their stand and lift the moratorium.

Shushkevich To Visit Bulgaria, Cancels Slovenia Trip

LD1810165593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich is to begin his official visit to Bulgaria tomorrow. He will meet Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev to discuss the friendship and cooperation treaty, an agreement in the area of education, science, and culture, and addenda to the agreement on trade and economic cooperation and payments.

The visit to Slovenia, planned earlier for the same time, will not take place.

Germany Funds Creation of Vocational Training Center

LD1810195393 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The leader of the Belarusian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, had a meeting with representatives of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Science, headed by Fritz Schaumann, secretary of state for that ministry. The delegation took part in the opening of an educational center for teaching market relations, organized on the basis of the Republican Institute of Vocational Education. Our state has become the first republic of the former USSR to have such a center. Germany has already allocated almost 2 million German marks on its creation.

New Deputy Minister for Arms Views Situation

WS1510110093 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 8 Oct 93 p 1

[Interview with Major General Mikhail Stankevich, deputy defense minister for armament, by Major A. Trokhachev, under the "New Appointments: First Interview" rubric; place and date not given]

[Text] The position of any deputy defense minister is very troublesome and responsible. That is why it is not always possible to conduct an interview in the first few days after being appointed.

Today, several weeks after his promotion, General Major M. Stankevich, Belarusian deputy defense minister for armament—chief of Armed Forces armament, is answering VO SLAVU RODINY's questions.

[Trokhachev] **Comrade Gen. Maj., VO SLAVU RODINY readers would like to know what kind of man has been appointed to one of the key positions in the Belarusian Defense Ministry. Please, tell us more about yourself and your military career.**

[Stankevich] I was born in 1942, in Vitebsk, to a working-class family. After high school, I entered the Kiev Tank Engineering School. While serving in the Armed Forces, I graduated from the department of managing engineers at the Academy of Armored Forces. I have held positions in different areas of the former Soviet Union—from Ukraine to the Far East—as well as in the Western Army Group. I served in Afghanistan between 1981 and 1984.

I have gone through all the engineering and technological stages in my career as an officer. I have been the deputy commander for armament in a regiment and a division, chief of the armored service, and deputy Army commander for armament. I have come to the post of deputy defense minister for armament from the position of chief of the armament order and supply administration for the Belarusian Armed Forces.

As for my family, I am married with two children.

[Trokhachev] **On 17 August, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published a report referring to the words of First Deputy Defense Minister Aleksandr Tushinskiy, who stated that despite its powerful defense industry system, Belarus would not be able to meet even the Army's minimum demand for arms and military technology in the near future. Would you comment on this?**

[Stankevich] Certainly, the Republic of Belarus has a powerful system and technological potential for a defense industry that contributed considerably to the development and production of arms and technology in the former USSR. I must note, however, that we did not have enterprises with full production cycles.

Due to the current insolvency of customers and a drop in orders, military production has become economically unprofitable, and such enterprises are being reduced and converted to the manufacturing of consumer goods. Thus, in the near future, we will not be able to meet even the smallest demand of the Belarusian Armed Forces for arms and certain technology. It is more expedient to develop and produce military technologies in cooperation with the other CIS states.

[Trokhachev] **It is no secret that the Belarusian Armed Forces are experiencing many serious problems. From the viewpoint of your office, which of those problems will be the focus of your overall attention?**

[Stankevich] Unfortunately, we have many problems with technical supplies in the Armed Forces. I will list the key ones.

First of all, there are material and technical supplies. It is very difficult today to maintain aircraft, tanks, armored vehicles, and cannons in good operating order and battle readiness. This particularly applies to aerial arms, anti-aircraft and missile forces, and artillery. The restoration of our arsenals is impossible due to the absence of spare parts and components. This is the result of insufficient financing and a break in ties with supplying enterprises.

Another sore point is the accumulation of arms and facilities that require thorough repairs. Defense Ministry capacities allow us to conduct a thorough or partial repair of only 40 or even 30 percent, considering current funds, of old facilities, and only that if we preserve economic ties with CIS factories producing spare parts. The remaining arms and technologies must be repaired at enterprises in Russia and other former USSR republics. However, the lack of funds here is also acute here.

I think, however, that these difficulties are temporary. Leaders of both the Belarusian Government and military are doing everything to overcome them.

[Trokhachev] **Your duties force you to leave your office and visit the field. How would you characterize the situation in the storage and preservation of facilities and arms?**

[Stankevich] It is really possible to examine the situation, adopt decisions, and render assistance in solving the most pressing problems in troops directly.

The upkeep of armaments and facilities is one of the most urgent issues. The mass media often report about thefts in these areas. The Defense Ministry is not standing idly by, and it is adopting measures to preserve these facilities, although thefts still occur and they are not accidental. Thefts of accumulators, batteries, optical facilities, fuel, and lubricants—everything that is in demand—are associated with the current economic and criminal situation in the Republic.

The state of our "iron" potential is also causing great concern. Due to reform in the Armed Forces, the removal and transfer of a large number of "cannons" and combat vehicles, central bases, storehouses, and arsenals have become overloaded. To preserve them in battle readiness, arms and facilities must be serviced and stored. However, there is also the shortage of personnel and conservation materials, particularly at (toxic chemical agents depots).

In general, due to the measures applied by unit commanders and Armed Forces leaders and the work accomplished by all personnel, the condition, storage, and upkeep of arms and technologies guarantee battle readiness in formations and units.

[Trokhachev] **The Army's critical situation in supplies with spare parts, particularly those produced in Russia and other CIS and nearby states, has been known for a long time. Has not this tendency become catastrophic, and what ways out of this crisis do you see?**

[Stankevich] I have already mentioned the insufficient material and technical supplies of the troops, chiefly in components, spare parts and accessories kits, fuel, and lubricants delivered from Russia and Ukraine, and the deficit of new vehicle models. However, I see no catastrophe here.

We have managed to find, although with difficulty, ways to buy the necessary spare parts, establish direct contacts with producers, and conclude agreements with them on technical maintenance after guarantees expire. This is one of the methods of keeping arsenals in good repair. Another method for assuring the restoration and preservation of arms and facilities in battle readiness is the utilization of military and technological reserves that were abandoned at former central USSR military bases, as well as of spare parts and components from outdated facilities and those remaining after their destruction.

[Trokhachev] **What kinds of arms does Belarus produce? Will it not happen that in a few years, the Belarusian Armed Forces will have only outdated models incapable of fighting effectively against a high-tech enemy?**

[Stankevich] Belarus' industrial enterprises and scientific research institutions generally produce various components and elements for defense enterprises in other CIS republics.

The following items can be ascribed to functionally finished military products manufactured in our Republic: Automatic troop and arms management units, portable radio stations, airport heating and cleaning facilities, special processing machines, and vehicles.

As you see, Belarus does not produce arms as such, and cooperation with CIS states is as important as air if we want to have modern arms.

At the same time, it is absolutely necessary to work on the development of new and promising arms samples. Having over 100 industrial enterprises and scientific research institutes engaging in the development and manufacturing of military products in Belarus, we have no right to lag behind our neighbors in this area.

[Trokhachev] **People are an important factor in the battle readiness of any army. What is the situation with technical personnel in the Belarusian Army? Is there a problem with the laying-off of old soldiers and a lack of young specialists?**

[Stankevich] Despite reductions in the Armed Forces, we have a great shortage of engineers and technical personnel, especially of certain officers in the vehicle and aircraft missile armament service. This shortage will be very acute until we finish preparations to reinforce these people with commanding officers. We also see another solution in training engineers and technical specialists at higher military establishments of the Republic of Belarus.

Certainly, there are problems with the dismissing of experienced officers and young specialists, the transferring of servicemen to armies in other former USSR republics due to the absence of expansion prospects, and engaging in commercial activities. I believe, however, that they will be resolved with time.

[Trokhachev] **How do you imagine the future of the Belarusian Army?**

[Stankevich] The Armed Forces are going through a complicated process of downsizing and reform. This process is strictly conducted according to schedule. The key goal is to accomplish this work without interruption by 1 January 1995, and reach the number of troops established by a relevant government program. Certainly, it is difficult to resolve all problems associated with the formation of an efficient military force. I suppose, however, that the reformed Belarusian Army will be capable of ensuring the reliable security of our country.

[Trokhachev] **Thank you for the interview.**

Association of Democratic Parties Urges Early Elections

LD1810222193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By L. Sviridov from Belarus; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Following the set-up of the (Vesna-94) association of democratic forces in Belarus, which supported holding early parliamentary elections and creating a coalition transitional government, a conference of the republic's parties and movements of non-communist orientation was held in Minsk. The conference adopted a resolution that notes, I quote, that the government and the Supreme Soviet have exhausted themselves. We demand that the Council of Ministers should immediately resign as it showed its inability to implement market reforms and to govern the country and the economy.

We are in favor of early elections to the supreme body of legislative power in Belarus on the basis of the new democratic law on elections. Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich also spoke in favor of early elections for the Supreme Soviet and supported the creation of the (Vesna-94) association.

[Shushkevich] This proves the maturity of some of our individual political parties, which found a suitable platform to unite around.

Moldova

Snegur, Sangeli To Visit Moscow for Talks

LD1810120693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0728 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau October 18 ITAR-TASS—President Mircea Snegur and Prime Minister Andrei Sangeli of Moldova are due to fly to Moscow on Monday afternoon [18 October], accompanied by a large group of experts, for talks with the Russian leadership. Russian President Boris Yeltsin is expected to receive the Moldovan president on Tuesday October 19.

Informed sources told ITAR-TASS that the negotiations between Moldova and Russia will focus on economic cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the agreement on the economic union within the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed in September.

The two countries are also expected to exchange views on the withdrawal of Russia's Fourteenth Army from Moldovan territory, a painful issue for Moldova.

Local observers believe that the atmosphere of the meeting in Moscow is not likely to be affected by the anti-Russian statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs Nicolae Tiu at the United Nations. His speech at the U.N. General Assembly session led to his accelerated dismissal from the post. Nicolae Tiu will reportedly be appointed Moldovan ambassador to the United States.

Delegation Leaves for Talks

AU1810185993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1742 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 18/10/1993—An official delegation of the Republic of Moldova, at head with President Mircea Snegur, left for Moscow, on October 18, to negotiate with the leaders of the Russian Federation. Ion Cebuc, first deputy foreign minister, member of the official delegation, told MOLDOVA-PRES news agency that after the recent coup attempt in Moscow "a new situation has emerged that requires new actions in the Moldovan-Russian relations, coordinated at top level. Standpoints on many issues have to be checked. The negotiations will cover matters regarding the withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldova's territory, problems of the final settlement of the conflict in the republic's eastern districts in general, and the situation of the Tiraspol political detainees in particular."

Snegur Addresses Nation on Events in Moscow

LD1810213193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Moldovan leader Mircea Snegur has called on Transdniestrians to rally effort for the country's economic recovery which can help towards normalization in the region.

In a radio address to the nation, he said the Moscow events had indicated that the hardliners' attempts in Russia and beyond to try to reverse the clock of history and re-assert totalitarian rule over newly independent states were futile.

The president stressed Moldova was among the countries which had failed to escape the horrors of civil war at the end of this century. He believes now is the time to try to resolve long overdue issues, "restore the climate of well wishing and mutual assistance so typical of the Moldovans and other ethnic groups" separated by the Dniester river".

He spoke of a substantial change in the internal situation with National Front radicals losing support on the ground and turning into an aggressive opposition group. Snegur said the parliamentary majority, the government and the country's top leadership were in pursuit of a measured and consistent policy, including the problem of human and minorities rights. He said there were no problems in Moldova that could not be resolved in keeping with democratic norms and rules accepted by civilized countries.

The president spoke of repeated offers made to the authorities in Tiraspol for regional normalization. He regretted that Chisinau's peace initiatives had run up against misunderstanding and a desire to retain the status quo and social divisions until "the godfathers of Transdniestria from the Rutskoy-Khasbulatov team stage a comeback in Russia."

The suppression of the parliamentary rebellion in Moscow has thwarted the last hopes by all manner of opportunists to try to restore the former totalitarian state, Snegur said.

He said nothing short of united effort can help lead the country of economic crisis and towards better living standards for this generation and those to come. Those who cause disunity, disrupt the long-standing ties and put up new obstacles on the way of normal life will be cast to the fringes of the historical process sooner or later, Snegur said.

He reiterated that regional normalization can be achieved if Transdniestria was granted a special status to account for its specifics and the Trasdniestrians' desire to retain their identity and lifestyle.

The president complained that Chisinau's constructive proposals had run up against a desire by a handful of Stalinist leaders in the Transdniestrian parliament to partition Moldova by setting up a confederation to allow Moldovans on either bank of the Dniester to live in separate states. "This nonsense is still being peddled out as the only solution to the conflict," he said.

Snegur said it became clear after the failure of the second October revolution in Moscow that those leaders were biding time by taking the talks into deadlock in the hope that their associates would soon grab power in Moscow and thank them for sending militants and weapons. In the meantime, they tried to scare the public with the threat of Moldova's aggressiveness and the prospect of its unification with Romania let alone nationalism and mutual enmities, he said.

Snegur called on Transdniestrians to dash aside past prejudices and recriminations and to rally efforts for Moldovan statehood. He also called for unity of effort in order to break the deadlock and muster courage and stamina to turning Moldova into one of Europe's thriving countries.

The government has worked out a concept for normalization in Transdniestria, presidential aide for the region Ion Mitskul told Interfax. This takes into account the historical, ethnic and economic peculiarities of regional development and provides for a high degree of regional self-rule, national self-identity and minority rights, he said.

Mitskul said the rural parts of Transdniestria were opposed to Tiraspol's idea of federalization. He said any comprehensive solution to the conflict must proceed from the country's integrity as recognized by the world community.

The aide expressed regret that all of Chisinau's peace efforts had been derailed by the Tiraspol leaders, who "enjoyed political, economic and military support from Russian hardliners in the face of the former Supreme Soviet and put forward unacceptable conditions for a regional settlement."

Mitskul hopes for Russia's change of heart and progress in resolving the regional issue in the wake of recent events in Moscow which, in his words, had also involved the Transdniestrians.

Lebed on Dniester 'Gunmen' at Moscow Events

PM1810143393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 7

[Lyudmila Feliksova report: "The Dniester Region Card Is Being Played Once Again"]

[Text] Chisinau—Moldovan politicians have been endeavoring to use the tragic events in Moscow for their own purposes. By unequivocally supporting Boris Yeltsin right after his edict dissolving the Russian parliament, M. Snegur there and then revealed the line of the political interests of Moldova itself. In telegrams supporting the Russian president's actions he described the Dniester region as a stronghold of forces opposed to Yeltsin. Following reports of the involvement of "Dniester region gunmen" in the defense of the White House, Chisinau's pressure on Russia and the Dniester region began with renewed force.

But the unrecognized republic itself categorically denies its involvement in the events in Moscow. The Dniester Republic Supreme Soviet has adopted a statement which says, in particular, that "Russia was and still is more than just the historical motherland for many citizens of the Dniester Republic. Russia is a state whose president acted as a guarantor of a peaceful settlement of the crisis conflict in our region, a state whose peacemaking forces have for more than a year been ensuring peace and tranquillity on our land." The statement also says that the Dniester Republic Prosecutor's Office is ready to give all possible assistance to Russia's law-enforcement organs in establishing the truth.

A. Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, has embarked on an independent investigation into the bloody Moscow events. He called a news conference in this connection, at which he accused, in particular, the leaders of the Dniester region's power ministries (security and internal affairs) of sympathizing with the Russian Supreme Soviet and sending people and weapons to Moscow behind the backs of the Dniester region's leadership. In addition, General Lebed declared that he knows the names of eight officers of the "Dniester" Battalion who were in Moscow during the October days. But he will not name them at present. He has no complaints about the soldiers, the general said—they were carrying out orders.

Lebed also reported that during the days of the Moscow standoff A. Rutskoy offered him the post of Russian minister of defense.

At Thursday's extraordinary session of the Dniester Republic Supreme Soviet Gen. Lebed repeated his accusations against Ministers Shevtsov and Matveyev and declared that he was resigning as a deputy.

Inhabitants of the Dniester region have taken varying attitudes to the militant general's actions.

Questions Dniester Involvement

PM1810151393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Svetlana Gamova report: "General Lebed Relinquishes Powers As Deputy"]

[Text] Chisinau—In his capacity as a Dniester Region deputy, General Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, has filed a question to the Supreme Soviet with regard to the participation of Dniester Region people in the defense of the White House.

Lebed submitted a list of the names of nine officers from the "Dniester" battalion who, according to his information, had left for Moscow the previous day. He also submitted a document signed by the chief of the region's security service on the dispatch of 50 assault rifles from the Dniester Region.

Lebed stated that the generals in charge of the power structures had given the order, behind the backs of the Dniester Region leadership, for people to be sent to help the White House.

A Supreme Soviet commission has stated that the whereabouts of the aforementioned servicemen are known and that they had not been in Moscow. As for the weapons, it is impossible to verify the present whereabouts of the document, which is dated September 1992. Before obtaining information on this score from the Russian Prosecutor's Office, the deputies have decided not to take any measures with regard to the aforementioned leaders.

V. Litskay, state secretary with the Dniester Region Government, has announced that the Tiraspol Prosecutor's Office has an agreement with the Russian Prosecutor's Office on joint action in an investigation. So far the Dniester Region investigators have not received any operational information that would allow them to start work.

The emergency session that met solely in order to respond to the deputy's question ended with Aleksandr Lebed relinquishing his powers as deputy.

Civic Alliance Urges Economic Relations With Russia

AU1710203093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—Today, during a press conference, the leader of the Moldovan Union of Journalists, member of the Coordinative Council of the Civic Alliance of Moldova (ACM), Gheorghe Danu stated that ACM mainly pleads for establishing economic relations with Russia. Adrian Usatil, head of the National Radio & TV Center and member of the Coordinative Council, pointed out that in the situation of economic crisis ACM votes for joining Moldova to any community. Nicolae Andronic, member of the Parliamentary Presidium and Coordinating Council of ACM, said that "presidential power needs no support to keep the state integrity." At the same time, ACM qualified as inadmissible the activities of some oppositional forces of unionistic-antistate character. Serafim Urecheanu, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions and member of the Council said the ACM, would not participate in the future parliamentary elections. He rejected any formal or hidden membership of

Speaker Lucinschi in the ACM. The conference was attended by Stefan Petrache, singer, Gheorghe Gorincioi, professor, Dumitru Coval and Arhip Cibotaru, writers, Boris Marian, editor-in-chief of the newspaper "NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA." Organizers of the press conference remarked that the recently founded ACM "is neither a social-political formation nor a party but a public movement."

Analyst Sees Russia's Influence Waning

AU1510140993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2032 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/10/1993—If Russian authorities lose control over their regions, Russia will not be longer regarded as a secure political partner, states to the newspaper "NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA" (INDEPENDENT MOLDOVA) the political analyst Vladimir Butter. Therefore the opinion about Russia will not be so important in the election's platforms. Butter says that if the Gagauz problem is solved easily, the Dniester problem will need much more efforts. "A class of leaders was created in Dniester that wants from us a dialogue based on principles of equality. A dialogue about a new Moldova. It does not mean the perpetuation of the Soviet state or Moldova's federalization, it means a totally new Moldovan state," states the political analyst. The interests of Dniester should be reflected in the Constitution and in the law on elections and implicitly during the elections, states the newspaper. Butter states that the Russian factor will give advantages in the future elections "to the moderate parties, and first of all to the agrarians." "The fractions of the Christian Democratic Popular Front and other national democratic parties will be on the second place in the number of its representatives, but will not join the governmental block and will ignore the new political doctrine."

Weekly Opposes Autonomy for Dniester Region

AU1710203493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—The autonomy of Dniester region will mean the revival of the former USSR, states the article "Obstacles in Solution of the Dniester Conflict" published in the newspaper PACEA CIVICA (CIVICAL PEACE). The absurdity of Moldova's federalization and of Dniester's autonomy is obvious, due to the ethnical structure of the region, states the author Viorel Doni. "It is not clear who wants this autonomy, Ukrainians and Russians or Moldovans who in majority demand the federalization of Moldova?" Doni wonders. The author considers that the location of the 14th Army in Moldova has the real purpose to divide Moldova. The 14th Army declared its aim to "defend the rights of Russian ethnics." The number of Russian ethnics is less on the left bank of River Dniester than on the right one. He calls this aim of the army a damage to the Russian security. Thus, the weapons shipped here with the quiet consent of Moscow, turned against it in a difficult moment. Being an evil in itself, the support of separatism becomes a menace for the great powers themselves, concludes the author.

Cheptine Sees 'Obvious' Trend To Consolidate Independence

AU1710203393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—The big international monetary organizations would have not supported us, if the tendency to consolidate Moldova's independence was not so obvious, Andrei Cheptine, minister of External Economic Relations, stated to the newspaper PACEA CIVICA (CIVIC PEACE). There is no way back, nothing repeats twice in history and the international organizations would have not advised or supported financially Moldova, if projects or programs on reform, in increasing Moldova's activity as mediator, which will contribute to the circulation of goods between the east and Europe," states the minister. The minister spoke about the possible increase of the unemployment rate in the closest future. He said that Moldova used credits of the World Bank to buy agricultural equipment to cultivate sugar beets, that allowed to eliminate almost completely the manual work and to significantly reduce the cost of production. "We could ruin ourselves without new technologies, but an important amount of peasants will be laid off, they should be engaged in other jobs," states the minister.

Trade Union Leader Opposes 'Extreme' Forms of Protest

AU1710205493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—Serafim Urecheanu, leader of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions from Moldova, states in the weekly PACEA CIVICA (CIVIC PEACE) that "in the situation of economic and political crisis in the republic we cannot afford extreme forms of protest and pressure on the government, including the strike, though it is allowed by law." "To strike means deepening the crisis. Romania may be a suitable example; it strikes even approaching an economic catastrophe. Is this what the people need? I think only populists can do this. We do not to involve [as received] people in solving urgent problems: We prefer to negotiate with the government, patronage and president. In the situation of state monopoly, extreme forms of protest will not have the expected effects," concluded Urecheanu.

Kazakhstan

President Nazarbayev Visits China

Agenda Outlined

LD1810191993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] As INTERFAX learned from sources close to the president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev will not discuss the border problem during his visit to Beijing that began on Monday. However this problem might be discussed between the two countries' foreign ministers, Tuleutay Suleymenov and Qian Qichen. In many locations the border between Kazakhstan and China is not precisely delimited and a commission has been set up to deal with this problem. After the break-up of the former USSR it was joined by officials from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

On the eve of his visit President Nazarbayev said that relations with China are a priority in Kazakhstan's foreign policy. In Beijing he is to confer with the Chairman of China's National Assembly, Jiang Zemin, and with Prime Minister Li Peng. A joint declaration on the fundamentals of friendly ties between China and Kazakhstan and several agreements on cooperation in concrete areas are expected to be signed during the visit.

The same sources told Interfax that in Beijing the Kazakh side intends to discuss the resumption of Chinese nuclear tests at the test site near Lake Lobnor.

Arrives in China

LD1810114893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1042 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Oreshin]

[Text] Beijing, 18 Oct—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev arrived in China today for an official visit. A formal welcoming ceremony was held in Tiananmen Square in the city center. The distinguished Kazakh guest was greeted by PRC President Jiang Zemin.

The welcoming ceremony was attended by Qian Qichen, vice premier of the PRC State Council and foreign minister, and Chen Muhua, vice chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

President Nazarbayev is being accompanied on the visit by Syzdyk Abishev, Kazakhstan's deputy prime minister and minister for foreign economic relations, and by other officials.

Meets With Jiang Zemin

LD1810143693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1315 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov and Vladimir Oreshin]

[Text] Beijing, 18 Oct—A thorough exchange of views on issues of political, trade, and economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and China took place during talks between Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who arrived here today on an official visit, and PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin.

The sides took note of the positive results attained in the economic and trade sphere since diplomatic relations between the two states were established. In this connection, the significance of the first session of the combined bilateral commission on trade and economic and scientific and technical cooperation was emphasized. The leaders of the two countries believe it is vital to give a new impulse to cooperation in such top priority spheres as the metallurgical industry, agriculture, the chemical industry, machine-building, and transport.

The leaders of Kazakhstan and China, having given a positive assessment of progress on border talks, expressed the view that there could be positive progress on this so that next year the relevant agreement can be signed.

During discussion of international issues, Jiang Zemin said China views President Nazarbayev's domestic and foreign policy with understanding and respect and expressed support for his initiative to establish a system of stability and security in Asia. The heads of the two states emphasized that their cooperation on this is an important area of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the PRC.

According to Kazakh diplomats, Jiang Zemin laid out his country's position on the problem of nuclear security, stating that "in no circumstances will China be the first to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries and zones, and furthermore, will not threaten neighboring countries with military force." The leaders of the two countries reached an agreement in principle on setting up a group of experts to look at the problems of the nuclear testing sites of Semipalatinsk and Lop Nur.

The talks have demonstrated the extent to which the two sides' positions on the current world situation coincide.

After the talks, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Jiang Zemin signed a joint declaration on the basis for friendly mutual relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the PRC, which both sides view as a basic political and legal document which defines in the long-term the scale of bilateral cooperation. Agreements on cooperation in the sphere of civil aviation, culture, and business trips by the citizens of the two countries were also signed.

President Opposes Call For Early Elections

PM1510110193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 7

[Report from roundup of Sergey Skorokhodov and ITAR-TASS reports under the general heading "News From Around the World"]

[Text] Almaty—The 11th session of the Kazakhstani Supreme Council has opened behind militia cordons protecting the deputies from pensioners demanding an increase in the minimum pension. Opening the session, Speaker Serikbolsyn Abdildin stated that the state of society today is typified by growing numbers of poorer citizens, social stratification, economic crisis, and rising crime. Another paramount problem is that of recreating a unified economic area based on the Russian ruble.

The first phase of the session's work will be devoted to questions of strengthening legality. Deputies will also have to decide at this session where they stand on the principles of the further separation of powers.

It is planned to examine draft laws on administrative and territorial makeup, on the Supreme Council, on the Cabinet of Ministers, on local representative and executive organs, and on elections.

Neither the president nor the Supreme Council chairman are behind the initiative for early new elections [perevybory] for people's deputies, the speaker of parliament said, and those who are putting such ideas about should be considered provocateurs.

On Thursday deputies plan to hear the president's report on the state of affairs in the republic.

Tereshchenko Chairs Deputies-Government Meeting

LD1510202493 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] On 13 October, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko chaired a meeting between peoples' deputies and members of the government.

It was a businesslike and constructive discussion during which the sides sought common approaches and an understanding on tackling the most urgent socio-economic problems facing the republic. Emphasis was placed upon the practical implementation of the agreements with Russia on creating a unified monetary system and also on tackling the mutual accounts of Kazakhstan's enterprises with foreign partners.

Daulet Sembayev, first deputy prime minister, tried to persuade parliamentarians that Kazakhstan's sovereignty would not suffer after entering a new type ruble zone. On the contrary, he said, the spontaneously created rate of old and new money is causing considerable damage to our industry. Payments for the products shipped to the Russian Federation by enterprises are not being received, they do not have funds to purchase raw materials, and a number of works and enterprises have found themselves on the brink of closure.

The agreements which have been reached with Russia envisage common approaches and principles of financial policy. This refers to taxation, value added tax, regulations concerning fund formation, mutual clearing payments, and other issues of cooperation. However, each side will be free to make its own decisions, to set prices of its products, and to sell them. [passage omitted]

Asygat Zhabagin, deputy prime minister, spoke about the situation in power engineering. Already 75 percent of fuel has been prepared, but that does not give the workers the right to be complacent.

Parliamentarians, representing the agrarian sphere, showed interest in the government's policy, its program and efforts aimed at stabilizing agricultural production under market conditions. Minister of Agriculture Tursumbayev stressed that maximum attention will be paid to the agricultural issues, but at the same time they should not rely only on state noninterest bearing credits, as it used to be before. They should be more active in mastering the market and their production should depend on the market requirements.

President Nazarbayev summarized the meeting.

Supreme Kenges Approves Deputy Prime Ministers

LD1610180593 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Summary] The Supreme Kenges session on 16 October was chaired by Serikbolsyn Abdildin. The previous day, the session approved the law on the legal regime at the time of emergency. The Supreme Kenges confirmed Syzdyk Abishev and Sergey Kulagin as deputy prime ministers.

The Supreme Court Chairman Tamaz Aytmukhambetov presented a draft law on the status of judges. As a result of a discussion, the proposed draft law was approved in the first reading. The next Supreme Kenges session will take place the coming Monday [18 October].

Legislators Reject Law on Purchasing Firearms

LD1510122493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Tatyana Zhurbenko for TASS]

[Text] Almaty October 15 TASS—Kazakh lawmakers refused to grant their citizens the right to carry and possess firearms.

After considering a lawbill on Friday which allowed all people over 18 years of age to buy firearms, lawmakers ruled to introduce tough limitations on sales of weapons.

"When the whole of the world works for disarmament we shall not give our citizens guns and pistols", a lawmaker commented.

Legislators also said that in conditions of armed conflicts erupting across the former Soviet Union it would be dangerous to sell weapons as "guns do shoot one day".

Tajikistan

Opposition Leader Usmon Interviewed on Situation

LD1410215893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Davlat Usmon, one of the leaders of the Tajik opposition, was born in the Kurgan-Tyubin district situated in the south of Tajikistan. For several years, he was a deputy chairman of the Islamic Revival Party. Later, he was vice prime minister in the government of national reconciliation formed in May 1992. In November 1992, when the opposition suffered defeat and the old regime was restored in the republic, Usmon went into hiding as the authorities launched criminal proceedings against the opposition leaders, accusing them of anti-state activities. Up to this moment, law-enforcement bodies have been searching for him. This interview with Interfax correspondent Yelena Nagornichnykh is the first that Usmon has given to the mass media since November 1992.

D. USMON: When the government of national reconciliation was overthrown, I was on an official visit to Saudi Arabia. Naturally, after this I could not make my way home through Russia or any other CIS states. Therefore, I had to get to the region of Gorny Badakhshan via Pakistan and Afghanistan. At that time, this autonomous region was the only place in Tajikistan under control by the opposition.

It is already eight months now that I am in Gorny Badakhshan with the opposition groups which have had to endure several serious battles. Now that the government troops, together with the Russian 201st division, have taken over the Sagirdasht Pass, they are ready to invade the Pamir Mountains. But now we have enough forces to ensure that we will be able to defend Gorny Badakhshan from those troops that wage war against our people.

IF [INTERFAX]: Who is in charge of the opposition forces?

D. USMON: Recently, the mass media have spoken much of a so-called government in exile. Actually, such a government does not exist. There is leadership of the opposition's struggle against the puppet Communist regime in Dushanbe. I am the head of the opposition's military council on the territory of Tajikistan.

IF: Why was Gorny Badakhshan chosen to be the base of the opposition?

D. USMON: The opposition forces are located not only in Gorny Badakhshan, but on the whole territory of Tajikistan. We have our people in Kurgan-Tyube, Kulyab, around Dushanbe, and many other places. Remember the clashes at the 12th border post and other posts of the Moscow border guards detachment. It was then that our forces started the struggle with the government, but Russian border guards stepped in their way.

Our method is guerilla warfare, since we cannot fight openly against the modern weapons and hardware of the 201st division which Moscow gave to the Tajik government. In fact, there are more opposition supporters in Gorny Badakhshan than in other areas, as this district is not controlled from Dushanbe.

IF: What is the opposition's ultimate goal?

D. USMON: We believe that Tajikistan experienced a popular revolution. As a result of unceasing rallies, the unarmed people overthrew the unpopular Communist government. The government of national reconciliation was formed.

Seeking to avoid the mistakes of the Russian revolution of 1917 that brought the Soviet Union to collapse, the opposition formed the government together with various political forces. But with support from abroad, the Communists suppressed the popular rebellion, overthrew the government of national reconciliation, and staged a massacre. Some estimate the number of victims at over 100,000. (According to government sources, about 20,000 people were killed. - Interfax)

Most people were killed after the return of the Communists in mass shootings in Gorny Badakhshan and other districts in December 1992 - January 1993.

IF: Is Islam the formal ideology of the opposition movement?

D. USMON: All the opposition forces available are under control of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan, though people of various beliefs fight on our side.

From the beginning of our political struggle, even when we were in power, the opposition has maintained that any model of society, especially the Islamic one, needs an adequate basis. If there are conditions for building an Islamic state when we win, such a state will probably be built. But the essential thing is that the people themselves must indicate their will. We are realists and we understand that it is impossible to change human nature by using force. We will rely on the society we have.

IF: Does the Moslem world help the Tajik opposition? If it does, in what ways?

D. USMON: The reports on the assistance by Islamic states to the Tajik opposition do not correspond to reality.

After the Communist system collapsed, the US launched an offensive against the Moslem forces, blaming them for fundamentalism and thus creating confrontation between the Christian and Moslem worlds. This is a very dangerous trend. There are so many weapons accumulated on the planet that a global catastrophe may become possible.

The Pakistani and Saudi governments do not help us, partially due to the pressure from the US. Even Afghanistan, which has about 100,000 Tajik refugees, has failed so far to announce its support of our efforts.

However, we do not deny that a portion of the weapons we have was purchased in the Islamic State of Afghanistan, while some Afghan field commanders also gave us something. However, the Tajik opposition still lacks support by Moslem states on the political level, though we receive aid from various public organizations of those countries.

IF: Do you see the possibility of national reconciliation in Tajikistan without armed struggle? What is necessary to avoid further bloodshed?

D. USMON: The key to national reconciliation now rests with Russia and Uzbekistan. It is they who call the shots. Negotiations between the opposition and the Russian and Uzbek leaders are needed. I think that if they manage to specify the interests that Moscow and Tashkent have in Tajikistan, national reconciliation will come true in the republic. The main obstacle to this is the intervention of external forces in our internal affairs. It is most important to remove this very obstacle in the first place.

IF: Why did you fail to mention the current Tajik leadership as one of the sides to the negotiations?

D. USMON: I believe that the forces that are now in power in Dushanbe are temporary, or transitory. The forces that shape up Tajikistan's policies are now in the shadows. The fiercest struggle for influence is going on in the top echelons of state power. There is no consensus within the government. That is why I say that if Russia withdraws its support, this will bring Dushanbe to national reconciliation.

IF: If you succeed to return to power, what will your actions towards the present victors be?

D. USMON: When we are in power, we will punish in accordance with the law only those who robbed, marauded, killed the defenseless - those who have blood from their hands to their elbows, as the current leaders like to say. We will pursue a more flexible policy, however, towards those who killed only on the battlefield.

IF: Do the opposition leaders participate in any official or unofficial negotiations with the representatives of sides interested in the settlement of the Tajik conflict.

D. USMON: We take part in such negotiations from time to time. The leader of the opposition forces, Mr. Said Abdullo Nuri, had a meeting with the chief of Russian intelligence in Afghanistan recently. It was not long before Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Kabul. The meeting focused on the possibilities to peacefully settle the conflict in Tajikistan. I personally have not had such meetings, but if I receive such a proposal, and if there is any benefit to it, I will not refuse.

IF: This is your first meeting with a journalist in the eight months of your stay in Gorny Badakhshan. Would you like to use this opportunity to make any statement?

D. USMON: I would like to call on the Russian people and government to take up a course which will lead to the establishment of peace in every former republic of the Soviet Union. What has been going on in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Tajikistan is undoubtedly a result of mistakes of Russia's foreign policies.

For 70 years the Tajiks lived harmoniously with all the people of the former Soviet Union. This proves that everything depends on the government. The Russian people must force its government to give up intervening in Tajikistan's internal affairs, and help the Tajiks restore order and resolve all our internal issues independently as soon as possible. Let the help of Russia be honest, without dictate or pressure from what is called peacekeeping forces.

IF: If I understood you correctly, you are saying that if Russia stops intervening in Tajikistan's affairs, the opposition forces will be ready to cease their armed struggle. Otherwise, another offensive by the opposition must be expected?

D. USMON: No. So far, the opposition forces have not undertaken a single offensive. After the government of national reconciliation was overthrown, we have only defended ourselves. I would point out that for a year the opposition has waged war not against the Tajik people, but against Russia. What is going on here is a struggle for national liberation, against the colonizers. During the clashes in Tavil Dare I saw tanks of the 201st division, Russian and Uzbek planes and helicopters. Out of 6 or 7 thousand troops clashing, 70 percent were Russian or Uzbek servicemen. All this proves that the old forces represented by the Communists cannot confront the new ones without help from outside. This is a war between Russia and the opposition. If Russia renounces the policy of force, all our problems will be quickly resolved.

Rakhmanov Meets CIS Forces Commander in Dushanbe

LD1810162393 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, has received Colonel General Pyankov, commander of the coalition forces of the CIS in Tajikistan, who has arrived in Dushanbe.

The issues pertaining to ensuring coordinated actions on the Tajik-Afghan border were discussed in the course of the meeting.

[Mahmadsaid] Ubaydulloyev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic, and Major General [Aleksandr] Shishlyannikov, defense minister [of the Republic of Tajikistan] were present at the meeting.

We remind you that a decision on creation of the coalition forces of the Commonwealth in Tajikistan was achieved this August in Moscow by the defense ministers of member countries of the Collective Security Treaty.

First CIS Battalion Moves to Border Area

LD1510134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] An Uzbek Defense Ministry battalion, with a total of 395 servicemen, will move into the Tajik-Afghan border area in the Shaartuz District on Saturday, October 16. Reliable sources close to the Tajik government say that this will be the first step in implementing the September 24 decision adopted by CIS heads of state on coalition peace keeping forces in Tajikistan. An ad hoc group of the Tajik Defense Ministry will go the Shaartuz District Friday to work on the logistics of the Uzbek battalion's activity.

CIS Troops Arrive; Commander Interviewed

LD1510190893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Report by correspondent A. Khodzhayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Khodzhayev] Colonel General Boris Pyankov, the commander of the CIS peace-keeping troops in Tajikistan, arrived in Dushanbe today.

[Begin Pyankov recording] The great task of implementing the political decision of the [CIS] heads of state to form collective peace-keeping forces on the territory of Tajikistan has been fulfilled. By now, its command has been formed, which consists of competent, well-trained generals and officers. The military forces to be sent from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan have been agreed upon. Today, on 15 October, the commanding officers and the forces have started to arrive. I think, on the whole, the arrival of the peace-keeping troops will contribute to stabilizing the situation in Tajikistan. [end recording]

Afghan Officials Discuss Cooperation With Oblast

LD1610180693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0804 GMT 16 Oct 93

[TIA Khovar correspondent Sadansho Nafasshoyev for TASS]

[Text] Horog (Afghanistan), 16 October—At the Afghan side's request, Garidsho Shabozov, the chairman of the Soviet of People's Deputies of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, received a delgation from the Sheghnon province of Afghanistan. Questions of economic cooperation were discussed. In particular, discussions were held on the possibilities of transfering electric power from the Pamirs to Afghan villages, organizing trade with areas bordering each other, accepting and treating ill people from the neighboring country, and the capture and return of smugglers.

Abdusattorkhon, the head of the Afghan delegation, called on the Tajik authorities in the Pamirs to assist in stepping up protection of the state border and the land and timber resources of Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the flood plain of the Pyandzh river.

Russian Troops Stationed Issue New Newspaper

LD1810154093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By KHOVAR correspondent Salohhidin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe October 18 TASS—Servicemen of the Russian 201st Motorized Rifle Regiment stationed in Tajikistan have received the first issue of the newspaper "RUSSIA'S SOLDIER" published in its field military print shop in Dushanbe.

The issue of a small-size weekly carries an appeal by the commander of the regiment to soldiers and officers, in which the peace-keeping activities of Russian servicemen in Tajikistan are highly assessed.

Editor of the newspaper, Lieutenant-Colonel Aleksandr Ramazanov, told a correspondent of the KHOVAR Tajik news agency that apart from "internal life" of the regiment's servicemen the newspaper will publish various information about public, political and cultural life of Russia and Tajikistan.

The newspaper is expected to give its due to the strengthening of friendship and confidence between the armed forces of Russia and Tajikistan as well as to the activities of Russian servicemen.

5,000 Youths To Serve With Russian Border Guards

LD1410205293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] About 5000 Tajik youths will be recruited from October to December to serve with Russian border guards. The first stage of manning the border guards will be complete October 20, Russian border guards headquarters officials say. The Pyanj and Moskovsky units have already been completely manned.

The officials noted a high rate of desertion. In particular, 85 conscripts deserted before completing basic training. Medics also note that many youths are physically unfit. Out of the 340 youths recruited in the Leninabad Region 62 were found unfit for border guard service and sent back to the national recruiting office.

Uzbekistan

Iranian President Arrives, Holds News Conference

LD1810164293 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tashkent, Oct. 18, IRNA—Uzbek President Islam Karimov here today gave a red carpet treatment to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran upon his arrival at Tashkent Airport.

In the tradition of Uzbek hospitality ten teenagers in traditional Uzbek attires offered flower wreaths to president while a group played a traditional Uzbek music.

President Rafsanjani who began his Central Asian tour today at the head of a high-ranking Iranian delegation, attended a news conference in Tashkent and described the visit as an opportunity to exchange views and information between the two countries.

He said that his visit to the newly-independent Republic of Uzbekistan is a "work related trip" during which issues of mutual interest will be discussed to pave the way for bilateral cooperation.

On the first leg of his 9-day tour of the Central Asian republics, Rafsanjani said that another objective of his trip is to visit the Muslim people of Uzbekistan.

Karimov, who began his speech in the name of God, expressed satisfaction with President Rafsanjani's visit to Uzbekistan and hoped for useful and beneficial results of the visit. Referring to historical bonds between Iran and Uzbekistan, Uzbek president stressed on the significance of revitalization of friendly and brotherly relations between the two nations and promotion of cooperation in all areas.

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1530 GMT on 18 October adds: "The president is being accompanied on this trip by the ministers for: foreign affairs ['Ali Akbar Velayati]; culture and higher education [Mohammad Reza Hashemi]; and roads and transport [Akbar Torkan]; first deputy commerce minister; chief of the joint staff of the Armed Forces [Major General 'Ali Shahbazi-Zolqadr]; governor of the Central Bank [Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli]; deputy speaker of the Majles; and a number of other officials."]

Further on News Conference

LD1810170993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At a news conference at Tashkent Airport the two presidents voiced satisfaction about the growing trend of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan. They emphasized the further expansion of mutual ties.

Expressing his pleasure at the visit by our country's president to Uzbekistan and referring to the strong historical ties between the Iranian and Uzbek nations and the cultural and religious common denominators between the peoples of the two countries, Islam Karimov said: Uzbekistan welcomes cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and attaches a great deal of importance to it.

Also at the news conference President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the necessity for extensive cooperation between Iran and Islamic countries, particularly newly independent Central Asian republics. He said: Cooperation could be based on common history, culture, and religion.

Rafsanjani, Karimov Hold First Round of Talks

LD1810192093 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tashkent, Oct. 18, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran and Uzbek President Islam Karimov here Monday held the first round of talks.

Cooperation between the two countries, especially, in trade, economy and industry as well as cultural areas formed the agenda of today's talks.

The two presidents exchanged views on the important issues in the region, especially, the current developments in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The Iranian president and his entourage reached agreement with their Uzbek counterparts on setting up a number of commissions to explore avenues for promotion of Tehran-Tashkent cooperation in political, transport, educational, cultural, commercial, banking and industrial areas.

Iranian President Signs Bilateral Agreements

LD1810223593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] A number of Uzbek-Iranian agreements were signed in Tashkent during the on-going visit of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Among them are the protocol on setting up the Uzbek-Iranian commission on trade and economic cooperation, the agreement regulating the transit trade and establishing international highway communications.

In a short statement for the press President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov stressed that the first visit of the head of the Iranian state will turn "a new page of the relationships between the two countries." "At a certain moment our relations were broken, Karimov remarked. Our task is to restore traditional ties and maintain our friendship for the coming generations."

On Monday Rafsanjani and Karimov held a tete-a-tete in the country residence of the president of Uzbekistan.

Karimov on Tajik Crisis, Economic Cooperation with Iran

LD1810222093 Tehran IRNA in English 2104 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tashkent, Oct. 18, IRNA—At a meeting with the press along with visiting President of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani here Monday Uzbek President Islam Karimov told reporters that his country has unlimited potentials for Iranian traders.

Answering to a question for his opinion on how best to solve the crisis in Tajikistan he said that in his judgment the Tajik Government should directly negotiate with the opposition and seek a peaceful settlement of differences that are responsible for the internal strife in Tajikistan.

He said direct talks between Tajik officials and influential Muslim states such as Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan would be a good device for defusing tension in the region, and recommended that the opposing parties in Tajikistan should abandon any preconditions for engagement in their eventual talks.

Asked for his opinion on the topic, Iran's President Hashemi- Rafsanjani said in the same interview that Central Asia needs peace more than anything else. He said certain foreign powers have a hand in the unexplainable troubles that are plaguing such countries as Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Answering another question touching on the magnitude of Iran's cooperation with the Central Asian republics President Rafsanjani said that Iran endeavors to help promote the relations between Central Asian governments and those of other countries. He added that a railroad is now being built that would link Mashad, in Khorasan province (of Iran), with Sarakhs and hence connect Iran to the Central Asian countries.

President Rafsanjani also said that roads that would improve Iran's connection with her neighboring countries are now being built or improved upon. Among them he mentioned a road that will link the country with Herat in Afghanistan, and other roads in Gilan and Khorasan provinces in addition to improving naval routes at the Caspian Sea that will facilitate sea transport between Iran and the Central Asian republics.

He also indicated that Iran and Uzbekistan had agreed to open a bank branch in Tashkent, and added that the Islamic Republic would also offer transit facilities to the Central Asia republics so that they would be able to market their products internationally.

Karimov, Britain's Hogg Discuss Bilateral Relations

LD1610141293 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0145 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Yesterday, President Islam Karimov received Douglas Hogg, Great Britain's minister of state for foreign affairs. The head of the republic, speaking on practical measures taken in the area of Uzbekistan's foreign policy, expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between Uzbekistan and Great Britain. He also noted the possibility of developing these relations further. The president stated: "We are very interested in establishing contacts with Great Britain for cooperation in the field of banking, telecommunications, science, education, and [word indistinct]. The implementation of the signed documents will serve the interests of both peoples and will strengthen friendly relations. The natural wealth of Uzbekistan and [word indistinct] wealth will form the basis of our relations of cooperation." [passage indistinct]

Douglas Hogg expressed gratitude for the interesting talks and stated that he shares the views of the president and [word indistinct] supports the proposals and wishes of the president. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Transportation Agreement Reached With China

LD1410104693 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1223 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The "Uzavtotrans" State Joint Stock Corporation of Uzbekistan and the Chinese Ministry of Communications have initialled an intergovernmental agreement between the two states on international road links. The agreement lays down the procedure for licensing conveyances, for settling accounts for transportation services, as well as customs and health control measures. Preparations are under way to open a bus route for passengers between Uzbekistan and China.

Armenia

Azerbaijani Shelling Injures Bus Passengers in North

NC1810160393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that the situation again worsened in Armenia's border zones yesterday evening and last night. Yet another cease-fire violation occurred on the border of Idzhevanskiy Rayon. At 2230 armed formations in Kazakhskiy Rayon fired howitzers at a passenger bus traveling on the Voskepar-Chinar road, causing some injuries. The Armenian fighters refrained from retaliating.

An exchange of fire took place in the border sectors near Vyuvadi in Megrinskiy Rayon and Yeraskhavan in Araratskiy Rayon between 1800 and 2000 and between 0000 and 0200. There were no casualties on our side.

No other incidents were reported on the borders between then noon today.

Azerbaijani Shelling of Karabakh Positions Alleged

NC1810174193 Yerevan SNARK in English 0945 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Stepanakert, October 18 (SNARK)—As a result of shelling of Karabakh army's positions at Madagiz village in Mardakertskiy region and in the directions of Agdam and Dzhebrail in the evening of October 17 and last night, five Karabakh soldiers were wounded. Karabakh army was able to destroy firing points of enemy.

Azerbaijan again violated the agreement on temporary armistice concluded between the Karabakh and Azerbaijan leaders.

The Karabakh Department of Press and Information told quietness exists at the other parts of the front.

President Meets Turkish Envoy, Others in Moscow

NC1810202093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] An Armenian delegation headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is in Moscow for a working visit. It met today with the Russian delegation headed by prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, and the Russian deputy prime ministers Yegor Gaydar and Aleksandr Shokhin, and some members of the governments of the two countries were present at the meeting.

The Armenian delegation is expected to return to Yerevan tonight.

The Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received the Turkish Ambassador to Russia Ayhan Kemal at the Armenian mission in Moscow today.

The Armenian president also met with the Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia on the same day. Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan was present at the meeting.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Addresses Nation on Independence Anniversary

NC1810185993 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in 1600 Azeri 18 Oct GMT

[Address by President Geydar Aliyev on the second anniversary of Azerbaijan's independence—live]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots, this is a special day in Azerbaijan's life. This is the second anniversary of the adoption of the constitutional act on Azerbaijan Republic's state independence.

The Azerbaijan Republic's attainment of state independence is an historic event, and hence it is our major national holiday. On this occasion, I wholeheartedly congratulate the Azerbaijani people and all the citizens of Azerbaijan, and wish success to all of you on the path of independence.

The day which the Azerbaijani people kept in their hearts for centuries and for which they longed finally arrived and the Azerbaijani people attained independence.

The attainment of full independence came after we had traversed difficult roads. However, it is even more difficult to keep and enhance independence, to attain the state's full independence and to ensure a worthy standard of living for all the citizens under conditions of independence. Hence, we have a lot to do; enormous tasks await us. The Azerbaijani state organs, the government, the existing socio-political forces in Azerbaijan, and each citizen must work to accomplish these tasks.

Therefore, on this special and major holiday I call on the people, all the citizens, socio-political leaders, intellectuals, civil servants, and each and every citizen for selfless sacrifice to enhance and keep Azerbaijan's independence forever.

I address the armed forces which protect and defend Azerbaijan's independence, the fighters, soldiers and officers who defend Azerbaijan's borders, and each and every citizen who respects and loves his country with the following call: Our future is in our own hands. We are now the masters of our own country and lands. We are able to determine our own future. However, maintaining these possibilities, preserving independence, raising our country to the level of the developed countries, occupying our due place in the international community are the real problems facing us. As the head of state, I consider these to be my own daily task, and I hope that every patriotic Azerbaijani, and every resident of this country who loves his country will consider these tasks as his own.

I congratulate you once again with these expectations and hopes, and wish you health, peace, and good fortune, and I wish success to you all in the name of Azerbaijan's independence.

Thank you. I wish you a happy holiday, and let us go forward towards new holidays.

Gasanov Sends Statement to CSCE Chairman on Proposals

To Seek Unconditional Cease-Fire

LD1810182693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Azerbaijan is prepared to seek an efficient and lasting ceasefire for six months without any preliminary conditions, says a statement sent by Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov on Monday to Chairman of the Minsk CSCE Conference Mario Rafaelli.

He says that the "urgent measures schedule" proposed by the Minsk group to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh "does not correspond to the main provisions of Resolutions No's. 822 and 853 of the UN Security Council, though this is no obstacle to further consultations within the framework of the Minsk group.

Gasanov believes the Minsk group bears "special" responsibility and must take measures for the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupation forces from all Azeri territories. The conference on Nagorno-Karabakh and its date depend on this.

The minister believes the Minsk group must take direct part in guaranteeing a safe return of the Azerbaijani refugees to their native abodes, including those in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Rejects Conflict Settlement Measures

LD1810185193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Azerbaijan gave a negative reply to the new schedule of measures aimed at settling the Armenian-Azeri conflict. The schedule was worked out by the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Baku expressed its attitude in a message sent by the Azeri Foreign Ministry to Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the Minsk Group for Nagorno-Karabakh.

As Interfax learned from the ministry, the new plan does not suit Baku because Azerbaijan's proposals are not reflected in it. The list of Azeri territories the Karabakh units are to leave does not mention the Lachin and Shusha Districts (which are part of Nagorno-Karabakh). As for the withdrawal of Karabakh units from other districts of Azerbaijan—Kelbajar, Agdam, Fizuli, Jebrail, and Kubatly—it is linked to a number of conditions unacceptable to Baku.

In an interview with Interfax, the State Counselor on foreign policy issues, Vafa Guluzade, stressed that it is unacceptable for Azerbaijan to withdraw all its troops from the former Autonomous Region of Nagorno-Karabakh. According to him, Baku also views as unacceptable the fact that the document refers to the present Stepanakert administration as the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In addition, Guluzade believes that the CSCE plan contains no concrete mechanism for ensuring the return of refugees.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Earlier, Yerevan gave a positive reply to the new CSCE schedule for a settlement in Karabakh. So far, there has been no response from Stepanakert.

The new CSCE plan provides for unblocking all highways and railways, inviting international observers to the conflict zone, and convening the CSCE Minsk Conference on finding a settlement. The plan's implementation was to begin in late October.

Baku Comments on UN Security Council Resolution 874

PM1910095393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Oct 93 p 7

[Unidentified "Own Correspondent" report under the "Hot Spots" rubric: "Baku Demands That Yerevan Pull Out Troops From Karabakh"]

[Text] It was already reported that Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has unambiguously expressed its attitude toward the new and amplified "schedule of immediate measures" proposed by the CSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh: The next CSCE Minsk conference can be held only after the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from all occupied Azerbaijani territories. The Azerbaijani side's stance has been de facto backed by the UN Security Council which has adopted its latest resolution No. 874.

Having confirmed the immutability and strict observance of its earlier resolutions No. 822 and No. 853, the UN Security Council has demanded their rigorous implementation by the sides. In contrast with the CSCE Minsk Group's "schedule of immediate measures," the new Security Council resolution retains unchanged the stance regarding the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its borders. Once again, just as in the previous resolutions, Armenia is mentioned as a side involved in the regional conflict. A separate point in the resolution notes serious concern over the situation of refugees.

Commenting on resolution No. 874, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Press Center especially highlighted the UN Security Council's demand for the immediate and unconditional liberation of all Azerbaijani territories, including Nagorno-Karabakh, from Armenian armed formations. There are no exceptions at all as regards specific population centers, as in the case of the "schedule of immediate measures." The UN Security Council calls for restraint from outside interference in the conflict.

Civilian Casualty Totals for War With Armenia Given

NC1810200693 Baku TURAN in English 1001 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Baku October 18 (TURAN)—37 teachers and 64 pupils were killed during the Armenian-Azeri war, the

Ministry of Education reported [to] TURAN agency. At the same time some hundreds of children were missing or are hostages. 510 schools were destroyed and incinerated by the Armenian soldiers.

According to different sources, about 30 thousands of peaceful Azeris were killed and wounded since the Armenian-Azeri war started.

Turkey Denies Involvement in Attempt on Aliyev's Life

PM1910091593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Oct 93 p 7

[Arif Useynov report under the "Terrorism" rubric: "Who Plotted the Attempt on G. Aliyev's Life?"]

[Text] Baku—It was already reported that a group of terrorists plotting an attempt on the life of Head of State Geydar Aliyev was neutralized in Baku two days before the presidential elections. They were caught red-handed by the bodyguard service in the thick shrubbery of the television center site, which lies directly opposite the building of the republic's National Assembly where the apartments of the republic's leader are located. It was officially announced that the group of terrorists comprised supporters of the Azerbaijan People's Front and a Turkish citizen. Automatic weapons with optical sights, grenades, and other sabotage equipment were confiscated from them.

The investigation has yet to produce an official charge, and the terrorists' names have been kept secret apart from that of the Turkish citizen—Gasan Toku [as transliterated], a native of Arzrum [as transliterated] and a university student.

Reliable competent sources have made it known that the failed terrorist action had been under preparation for a long time and its objective had been to thwart the presidential elections. The People's Front headquarters immediately denied any involvement in the assassination attempt plans.

A high-ranking diplomat at the Turkish Embassy in Baku, who asked to remain anonymous, bitterly told ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent: "No matter whom Gasan Toku represented, there is an association [svyazano eto] with Turkey. I know from experience how difficult it is to dispel doubts and conjectures, to prove that white is white...."

Over the last few days the Turkish Embassy has been irritated by mass media reports that representatives of the Turkish special services are firmly established in joint Azerbaijani-Turkish enterprises, dealing more with the gathering of political and economic information rather than with entrepreneurial activity. Mokhamad Ali Bayar [as transliterated], deputy Turkish ambassador in Azerbaijan, refuted the reports that are circulating. He explained that special services agents from Azerbaijan's neighbor country do not operate on the republic's territory and that the person who reported this had obviously confused Turkey with some other state.

Incidentally, the slight easing of the visa regime with the neighboring states of Iran and Turkey has been perceived with worry by Azerbaijan's law enforcement organs. In the wartime conditions, the republic has proved vulnerable to infiltration not only by various countries' special services but also by drugs traffickers and international terrorists. On the other hand, it is worth noting the professional appraisal of this fact, which is willingly aired by diplomats accredited in Azerbaijan's capital: There is no need at all to use special services in order to get hold of secrets. It is sufficient to buy the Azerbaijani newspapers which are loquacious and indiscriminate in publishing confidential and strategic information.

Be that as it may, the republic's residents are following the course of the investigation with interest. The question "Who plotted the attempt on Geydar Aliyev's life?" remains unanswered.

Iranian President Rafsanjani To Visit 22-24 Oct

NC1810201793 Baku TURAN in English 1001 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Baku October 18 (TURAN)—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani of Iran is to visit Azerbaijan October 22-24, with an official friendly visit, TURAN agency was told in the Embassy of Iran in Baku.

[According] to the report of the Iranian Embassy press-service, the problems of the political, economic, cultural and other cooperation between the two countries will be discussed during the visit.

In his turn, the press-service of the Azeri Foreign Ministry reported that a number of documents on economic cooperation will be signed during the visit.

Yesterday in Baku, receiving the chairman of the Iranian revolutionary fund Rafiqdust Mohsen, Geydar Aliyev said that Baku was ready to sign a treaty on friendship and cooperation with Tehran.

At present a group of high-ranking Iranian officials consisting of 16 men, including the Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi, is in Baku now, busy preparing the visit.

After visiting Azerbaijan, the President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran will visit central Asian countries.

Baku Joins Mir Interstate Broadcasting Company

LD1810164693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative signed an agreement on the republic's participation in the Mir interstate television and radio broadcasting company in Moscow today. Until today, it involved Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Uzbekistan. This agreement means that another step has now been taken toward expanding the common information area.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Present Situation

LD1810141993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 18 Oct 93

["Traditional Monday interview" with Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state and chairman of parliament, by correspondent Nato Oniani; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, last night was fairly hard on the western front—unfortunately, we have to use these words. According to the latest information, how well is Kutaisi being defended, and when will state formations end just defending themselves? The reason I ask is that Khoni and Samtredia are the last points, and something must become clear in the long run. One more question: I cannot ask you to give me a list of data, but since a great deal of our heavy weaponry has been left behind in Abkhazia or, more precisely, Kobalia's units captured from our army, do the state troops have enough heavy equipment and arms?

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. I voiced some of my views in my interview to you yesterday, and I may repeat myself. I have qualified the events in west Georgia as an armed intervention by the united forces. In effect, it is a continuation of the same course against Georgia in the process of carrying out their aggressive plans; here too we are dealing with an armed conflict, i mean, the representatives of different nations and nationalities, different combatants are participants. As I told you, whatever happened in Abkhazia is continuing in Samegrelo, and now they have stormed the Imereti rayons. The external reactionary forces have their plans in Georgia. It is evident what those plans are from the example of Abkhazia. Unfortunately, we turned out to be alone in fighting our own and external dark forces, in fighting for freedom and independence and democracy.

The Security Council fails to act beyond adopting resolutions. The resolutions adopted are very good, well put; they sound well, but in effect, Abkhazia, although temporarily, but still, has been wrested away from Georgia. Neither do the western friends succeed in helping. There is a great compassion, solidarity, a wish to stand beside us, there are letters, telephone calls, etc, but in effect, all this cannot help matters.

I pin definite hopes on Russia; my people should know why I have taken this step, yet many people responded to it aggressively in Georgia. I pin hopes on the Russia that went through the hurricane of 3-4 October. I think, at least it should happen this way if the events develop in a normal way, that Russia's role in bringing Georgia out of the crisis must shape out. Its positive role must shape up specifically after the events of 3-4 October.

I pin definite hopes on the solidarity of the CIS. We are a new member-country, we have just joined it, or more precisely, we made a statement and it was supported by the CIS. And I hope that they will show such support and solidarity, because if Georgia's territorial and statehood integrity were to be destroyed, it would not forecast a better future for other countries. The majority of the CIS countries is interested in inviolability of borders and the territorial integrity of states.

[Oniani] At least at an official level the Russian Foreign Ministry and others state that the revision of borders will be disastrous for the CIS itself.

[Shevardnadze] I would like to single out statements by the Russian Foreign Ministry for their common sense and realistic assessments. It said many interesting, necessary and objective things. It is now important that the whole Russian leadership share this view.

It is not a secret that I am actively engaged in talks with appropriate Russian officials, with the Russian Government in particular, and with various echelons [as heard]. And I would say that today and tomorrow may prove decisive in this respect. They must make some decision. We must decide how to cooperate, how these two countries should counter what can be called an invasion of Georgia, an attack against its freedom and independence. The form, scope and strength of this cooperation will be decided today and tomorrow, as I said. At least, I hope that a decision will be made, for which I will be responsible to my people.

If these hopes are dashed once again, the situation will become complex, difficult. According to reports I have received, those who are outside Kutaisi, those who invaded Samtredia yesterday and overran the civilian population and our fighters, were mainly combatants who had fought in Abkhazia.

You are asking me about the defense of Kutaisi. The whole of Kutaisi has risen to its feet. Honestly, every minute and every second I wish to be with my Kutaisi residents, as do the whole of Tbilisi and Georgia. I think that the residents of Kutaisi can feel it. I must say that they are displaying extremely good organization and will-power in everything and at all times. They were helping Samtredia quite a lot, but it proved not to be enough against numerically far more superior manpower and equipment. However, they are actively helping Samtredia, Khoni and rayons in Guria and Imereti. And, first of all, they are defending their city.

I would like to single out the city mayor, Mr. Temur Shashiashvili, who has tremendous fighting spirit. I knew this, but sometimes hopes do not come true. He is a person, fighter and leader who deserves to lead his city, his electorate, his following, I would say. He cooperates extremely well with leaders, our representatives, my representatives who are involved in work on military operations. [passage omitted: Praises other Georgian rayons for their war effort]

After the defeat in Abkhazia our armed forces were traumatized, demoralized, disorganized. The majority returned via Svaneti, leaving their weapons and equipment in the mountains. Unfortunately, the enemy seized the most reliable of our equipment. It will become clear with time who was responsible for this.

However, under measures implemented by the defense minister [Gia Karkarashvili], much is being done to form a group which will say its decisive word in western Georgia.

As regards the equipment, we are receiving something every day. There is equipment and there will be equipment. Not the old and rusty, but more modern and reliable. However, we must learn how to use it, and this will take some time. [passage omitted: hopes listeners are satisfied with description of situation in western Georgia]

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, if we review the latest events in Georgia, we can see that the Chechens and other North Caucasian peoples have fought in Abkhazia and they are still fighting. The Chechens are in Samegrelo—Kobalia made a statement about it—and the Chechens are in Khini and Samtredia. Apart from fighting the state troops they are plundering, and killing civilians. The Russo-Chechen relations are their private affair and they have to sort it out themselves, but as it happens, Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation. Is Russia assuming any responsibility for what is happening now—Abkhazia being occupied and part of west Georgia troubled? I repeat, because Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation.

[Shevardnadze] Before I say anything about the Russian Federation, I would like to stress the fact that Chechnya is our neighbor. We have been together in good and bad times and I want us to remain good neighbors. It is difficult to bring myself to say that these people are against Georgia, but it is a fact. Official circles of Chechnya are stressing the fact that the fighters in Georgia are volunteers and that the Chechen government does not approve of this, and that it condemns the action of the volunteers. I do not think that it is exactly the case, as these people need to be paid, they need arms, training, etc., and to my knowledge, many of them are members of the government structures; not to say anything about the fact that the former president, Mr. Gamsakhurdia has a special support and care, financial and moral and political care, and is still enjoying it. Unfortunately, Georgia had to pay a high price for this, a very high price. I do not know what could smooth over our relationships. I wanted to do everything in order to develop good-neighborly relations, but today our relations have been defaced by a black stain. As for Russia's responsibility, officially Russia has not recognized Chechnya's total secession from Russia and its complete independence, and it is responsible for everything that the federation subjects do regarding foreign policy and on the foreign scene. If it is aggression, and I cannot qualify it otherwise, this direct interference of numerous units directly helping the destructive forces, then Russia must assume responsibility also. I believe, however, that the Russian authorities cannot be thankful and grateful for Chechnya's actions. So when we are talking about responibility, Russia is responsible for this.

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, you are meeting the population of Tbilisi today, those who will gather in the Philarmonia Hall. The center of Tbilisi, Rustaveli Avenue, still bears the marks of the activity of the former president. Would you say that Gamsakhurdia's comeback is the result of some of the mistakes made by Shevardnadze? And if so, what were these mistakes?

[Shevardnadze] Generally, when things are not going well, we always look for the culprit. I have never shrugged off responsibility and I am not shrugging it off now; I have made mistakes and unfortunately, mistakes are made today also. As for the Gamsakhurdia phenomenon, I think that it is not an accidental one, this phenomenon has not emerged from nowhere. This phenomenon has been stipulated by the present level of development of Georgia and the Georgian society. It cannot be otherwise. Who is supporting Gamsakhurdia? It would be naive to say that nobody is. There is a definite percentage of the population, maybe 10, 15, maybe less, maybe more. Who are these people? It is interesting. I do not want to talk openly about it yet, but I tried to analyze, together with some scientists, as to who these people are. Of course, there are some educated people among them, but mainly it is a fairly dark force. And I can not imagine there being that many fanatics and dark forces in our society.

Today, as we are talking about the fight between the former president's supporters and the supporters of the present authorities, the Georgian authorities, we must call this a fight between light and darkness, between Georgia's future and those forces which are dragging Georgia back to the medieval darkness. This is how we must qualify it. Every Georgian, and not only Georgian, but every citizen of our republic must understand and comprehend it. You are free to call the Gamsakhurdia phenomenon either Shevardnadze's mistake or our mutual tragedy.

[Oniani] It is a fact that this phenomenon is not an accidental one.

[Shevardnadze] No, it is not accidental.

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, since a fortnight ago, when the situation became very tense in Gerogia, and since you made a slightly unacceptable and confusing—I am sorry to be saying this—statement that maybe a pro-Russian leader would be found for Georgia, the press has made fairly strict statements about the present authorities being doomed, and some political forces have claimed that a new leader has already been found, but his name is kept secret. [passage omitted: epithets about a possible leader] Will you be handing over your rights and responsibility delegated on you by Georgia after the elections?

[Shevardnadze] I am aware of all kinds of appraisals and phrases, sometimes insulting and sometimes very naive, and sometimes simple and unsophisticated. Sometimes there are critical and serious remarks, and I accept many of them. I would put it like this; I intend to act in the interests of Georgia. I have fought for this so far. The situation is such in our country that there are changes every day. Unfortunately, so far, these changes have been for the worse, but I still think that maybe the sun will shine down on Georgia, and I hope that it will do so soon. I go through all variants, I even know those people whose names they [as heard] are not giving away; I know who they mean and who they are talking about. I will not reveal their names as I do not want to take any blame.

[Oniani] [Passage omitted: Georgian joke in this context]

[Shevardnadze] It is not important. As I have told you, I go through every variant. It is true, according to Akaki Asatiani [former chairman of Supreme Soviet in Gamsakhurdia's government], I am just starting to learn about politics from scratch, but I cannot escape from the responsibility which the people delegated on me last October, despite the fact that I am wet behind my ears in politics. After what I have gone through in Sukhumi, and when I returned home, one would have thought that I would say to myself that I could no longer take it any more and that I would resign and tell my colleagues to ask somebody else to take over. I could not bring myself to say that. But I thought that abandoning the people and the country in such hardship and calamity would be immoral. One may not be the leader of the government, but fleeing and leaving people behind is not acceptable to my moral fiber.

I know that there are closed or open consultations as to what we are about to do, whether we should have a coalition government or maybe Shevardnadze and Gamsakhurdia will make an agreement. I would put it like this. I will do as my conscience tells me and prompts me, as the sense of responsibility for my people and the country will prompt me. I have no other answer to this question. If I am assured that there is another acceptable candidate for Georgia than Shevardnadze, then I can make a decision today, but if I am not assured, I will not go, I will not make such a decision. I must be assured. As for those advisors who are going through all candidates and are conjugating Shevardnadze's name in all cases, I will not and cannot follow their advice.

[Oniani] There is a prevailing view among some members of the society that Shevardnadze is not suitable for Russia, that Russia would favor the Shevardnadze who would sign the CIS membership agreement, but the Shevardnadze within the CIS is unsuitable for them, and that they would do everything to get rid of him. Do you subscribe to this idea?

[Shevardnadze] I am often asked whether the Shevardnadze within the CIS is suitable for Russia. I think that the factor of Shevardnadze's importance is excessively far-fetched. Why should Shevardnadze not be suitable for Russia? If Shevardnadze is skeptical about this organization, and if he recognizes it now, it speaks for the benefit of the CIS. If Shevardnadze supports it and now it has been put on paper, logically, Russia should not be against Shevardnadze, but I cannot speak on behalf of Russia. As I have told you, the immediate two or three days will show us what and who is suitable for Russia. The answer to this question will be clear depending on how Russia acts in these critical and fatal days for Georgia. It is best to judge according to its actions.

[Oniani] In yesterday's television interview you made fairly strict statements. Are you afraid that Shevardnadze will be blamed for being a dictator? There was a broad view in Georgia that you sacrificed the country's interests to your image of being a democrat.

[Shevardnadze] If my actions are strict and demanding, which according to some people is tantamount to dictatorship, it will be done to the end of saving and strengthening democratic achievements. It will be done in the interests of Georgia. If some restrictions follow—as I said last night, some newspapers may be suspended and some television programs cancelled, and some people refused to take the floor—it will only be a temporary measure and done in the democratic interests of Georgia. This is how I see myself being strict, although this strictness has not yet assumed an unbearable form.

[Oniani] Lastly, Mr. Shevardnadze, Gurians [citizens of Guria, Shevardnadze's birthplace] have always been chastised for drinking their first toast to peace. According to today's events, we can be sure that they were damned right in doing so. When do you think we will feel the first signs of stabilization?

[Shevardnadze] A lot will depend on...[pauses] I have analyzed it, from where we must expect...[pauses] we will not be able to fight these international units and invaders, it will be very difficult for us to withstand them. Those forces to which small states should look up...[pauses] you know that nothing moves beyond words and resolutions and financial and moral support. A lot will depend on our relations with Russia, a lot will depend on this. Not in the future, not so much in the future as now, these very days, a basis is being created for the Russo-Georgian relations and these days will define the character of these relations. I think that President Yeltsin understands it well, at least, I have an impression that he does. I have had meetings with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and others, and I have an impression that they understand our present situation as well as the fact that this stage of our relations will define the future of our countries and the fate of relations. Let us wait and see, wait for events. I think everything will be...[pauses] I always say that the truth must prevail, we are really in the right, the Georgian people and the Georgian state has stood on the right positions, and it cannot be that such people should suffer, become poor, and such a state disintegrate. I rule out such a possibility.

[Oniani] Thank you very much Mr. Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze on Abhkazia, Gamsakhurdia, Russian Policy t

BR1810153893 Paris LIBERATION in French 18 Oct 93 p 18

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state, by Natalie Nougayrede in Toilisi; date not given—first two paragraphs are LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] Tbilisi—The Georgian head of state, who is currently in conflict with supporters of his rival, former President Gamsakhurdia, explains what he expects of Moscow.

Yesterday, armed supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia seized Samtredia, a town in western

Georgia and home to the main railroad crossing between the capital of Tbilisi and the entire Georgian seafront. The rebels are continuing their advance on Koutaisi, the country's second largest city, and the final stand before Tbilisi. Clearly disheartened, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze seems increasingly isolated at a time when his troops have begun to retreat.

[Nougayrede] Following its military defeat by the Abkhaz separatists and the Russian troops that supported them, Georgia "got down on its knees"—as you put it—and joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). What would happen if the Russian authorities were to ask even more of you, such as your resignation?

[Shevardnadze] Anything can happen. The help the Russians promised will depend on their intentions and their goodwill.

[Nougayrede] What makes you think that Russia will help Georgia now, when your country seems to be in chaos?

[Shevardnadze] When I talk of help and aid, I am not talking about military aid. It is in Russia's interest to have good relations with its neighbor Georgia, a Georgia that maintains its territorial integrity. It is certainly not in their interest to have a neighbor racked by instability.

[Nougayrede] You yourself have said that you had many friends in Moscow, who—especially among the armed forces—now blame you for having taken part in the dismantling of the Soviet Union. Have you perhaps become too much of a nuisance?

[Shevardnadze] Before the events of last 3-4 October in Moscow, I had more enemies in Moscow. I suppose I have fewer now.

[Nougayrede] Why has Georgia become involved in a bloody war in Abkhazia, since in the end it was forced to join the Commonwealth of Independent States?

[Shevardnadze] Georgia would probably have had to join the CIS earlier, at the same time as Ukraine or Kazakhstan. For a long time, though, the country was not ready to do it or accept it. In the end, the decision to do so was inevitable. However, the fact that we belong to the CIS is no guarantee that everything will be alright. Joining the CIS is a way of reviving our economy.

[Nougayrede] There is talk here of you being replaced as the head of state of Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] A number of people would be capable of replacing me. However, I do not think that people will be lining up to govern a country in this condition.

[Nougayrede] Several of your political allies in Tbilisi resigned in protest over Georgia's entry into the CIS.

[Shevardnadze] I am sorry they did. I also think that it would be no tragedy if I were replaced as the head of state. The key question is finding a successor who would suit the Russians and satisfy all of Russia's demands. The Russian leaders know this as well as I do.

[Nougayrede] Russian troops will be in charge of protecting the main Georgian train line linking Poti and Tbilisi. Does this open the way for Russian intervention in the Georgian civil war?

[Shevardnadze] So far nothing concrete has been done. However, we agree with the Russians as regards the protection of our rail line.

[Nougayrede] If the civil war in Georgia deteriorates, will you ask for Russian military intervention?

[Shevardnadze] All that depends on our options. You know, in Georgia we would have preferred intervention by NATO (ironic smile). I think, however, that the Russians neither could intervene, nor would want to intervene.

[Nougayrede] Is there no political solution on the horizon for ending the civil war?

[Shevardnadze] That depends on Zviad Gamsakhurdia. He is the one who unleashed the offensive. We have the forces we need to fight.

[Nougayrede] Can you evacuate the last Georgian inhabitants of Sukhumi, as there lives seem to be endangered?

[Shevardnadze] This region is currently being terrorized (by Abkhaz forces, editor's note). At the moment no evacuation plan is possible since we cannot gain access to Sukhumi. The Russian authorities themselves have admitted that an extermination plan is being implemented against the Georgian population in Abkhazia. We have not discussed this problem with the Russians. On the other hand, they have already helped us save the last Georgian refugees trapped in the mountains. Thanks to the help of Russia and Ukraine (which provided the helicopters, editor's note), the rescue operation was a success. From that point of view, we pulled off the impossible.

[Nougayrede] With hindsight, are you sorry that you ever came to power in Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] No. However, since my return, I have known that it was a mistake that no politician would have made.

[Nougayrede] What was the highlight of your entire political career?

[Shevardnadze] It is hard to think of any one thing, but the happiest period was undoubtedly my time in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, when I made my contribution to the revolutionary process that was implemented at that time.

Shevardnadze Sets Mobilization, Negotiates With Russia

LD1810163993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1417 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Here is a report from Tbilisi that Zurab Dvali, correspondent for the Iprinda agency, just filed for our "Panorama" program:

[Begin Dvali recording] The Georgian head of state has described the events in western Georgia as intervention. I remind you that government troops were forced to abandon the towns of Samtredia and Khoni yesterday. Fighting is now in progress in the Kopitnari area, close to the city of Kutaisi. Shevardnadze was referring to Abkhaz partisans and North Caucasus mercenaries when he spoke of interventionists. Today we have been left to fend for ourselves against dark forces, the head of state went on. But I pin certain hopes on Russia, the Russia that survived the well-known events of 3-4 October, Shevardnadze noted. Furthermore, he disclosed that he was negotiating with the Russian leadership and that everything would be resolved today or tomorrow.

At the same time it has been learned that the head of state, in his capacity as commander in chief, has ordered the Ministry of Defense to carry out an urgent mobilization of all units and detachments within the ministry's jurisdiction. Reinforcements are being sent from Tbilisi to western Georgia.

A huge number of Tbilisi inhabitants gathered at the State Philharmonia in Tbilisi today. A stormy debate on the present situation in the republic is in progress. Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze and representatives of the republican leadership are also attending the meeting. Unfortunately, the Philharmonia hall could not accommodate all those who wished to attend, and a large number of people are waiting outside. Various views are being expressed. However, everybody agrees on the main issues, that unity is more necessary than ever before and that unnecessary rabble- rousing and political intrigue must come to an end. Criticism of a number of political leaders, who have been carried away by populist slogans in their zeal to earn additional political dividends, is being expressed. The citizens of Tbilisi assured Shevardnadze that they were prepared to take up arms to defend the country's interests.

In his address to the gathering, the head of state stressed that destructive forces loyal to Gamsakhurdia would not succeed in realizing their plans. There are sufficient forces to stop this happening so long as everybody makes a sober evaluation of the present situation, Shevardnadze stressed. Once again he went through the reasons why the republic should join the CIS in the present political and economic situation. Over the next few days a lot of things will be clarified in our relationship with Russia, Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized yet again. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Appeals to Russia, Caucasuses for Aid

LD1810230093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Statement by State Council Chaimran Eduard Shevardnadze on 18 October; place not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] Supporters of the former president are attacking the country's vital centers. They have succeeded in taking Senaki, where we have a very big aerodrome, and the most important railroad network, which plays a crucial role in supplying the economies of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. They took Poti, the main port, the main town—the gates, as we say, of the Transcaucasus. Since a truly disastrous situation has arisen, we now face the threat of famine, not only Georgia but Armenia as well. Azerbaijan is also suffering greatly. This road is also a very important, a vitally important, artery for Azerbaijan. Now this artery has been cut, and we are really in a dire situation, not to say that it is becoming catastrophic.

So my colleagues and I, and our government, are left no choice but to ask for help, to ask for help from our neighbors, from those states which have a direct interest in the functioning of these important routes. To be honest, we will not be able to fulfill this task with our own forces.

So I call on the governments of Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan to allocate the necessary contingents, military contingents, in order to provide for the normal functioning of these vitally important arteries for three...[corrects himself] for four states. I have informed the United Nations accordingly, and the Security Council. The Georgian foreign minister is now in New York, and besides his other assignments he has the appropriate task of informing the secretary general of my request, my appeal, to the heads of four states. [Video shows Shevardnadze speaking into a microphone in an office]

Shevardnadze—Path to CIS Is Path to Russia

LD1810221493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2133 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tbilisi October 19 TASS—"Today when external and internal enemies want to see Georgia on its knees, it is necessary to make a right and decisive step," Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said.

Speaking at a meeting with intellectuals in Tbilisi on Monday, Shevardnadze stressed that "a path to the CIS is a path to Russia. Two neighboring states can fully realise their interests within the commonwealth."

He noted that his decision to join the CIS had been preceded by a "long and hard consideration and he is satisfied with the fact that this decision has been approved by the majority of the population, primarily the working people tired of political upheavals who have been thrown into devastation and poverty by pseudo-patriotic insinuations."

"The mandate of confidence for such a step has been received from the people, but not from political parties. People demand that the energy of the nation be directed wisely towards the onward movement capable of consolidating Georgia's labour and intellectual potential which can be used not for self-destruction but for the benefit and revival of the motherland," Shevardnadze said.

"The main question is about the choice between peace and war. There will be no peace in the country which is not seeking a common language with its neighbours, good neighborly relations and mutually advantageous relations," he added.

The Georgian leader also said that the decision on Georgia's joining the CIS has been welcomed and supported by all CIS countries. "The country will not rise without concerned and strong allies," Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze Supports Idea of CIS Membership

LD1810204393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1940 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 18 Oct—"Today, when external and internal enemies wish to see Georgia on her knees, a correct and decisive step must be made," said Eduard Shevardnadze on Monday. Speaking at a social gathering in Tbilisi on the country's entry into the CIS, the head of the Georgian state emphasized: "The way into the CIS is the way to Russia. Two neighboring states can realize their mutual interests to the full within the framework of this Commonwealth."

Eduard Shevardnadze said that he reached the decision to join the CIS "by way of long and difficult meditation, and [I am] satisfied that the majority of the population approves of this decision—primarily the representatives of the working people who have become tired of political shocks and who as a result of pseudo-patriotic insinuations have found themselves distressed and impoverished."

"A mandate of trust on this step has been granted by the people, not by individual political parties," Eduard Shevardnadze continued. "The people demand that the country's energy be directed in a rational channel, toward forward movement capable of concentrating the intellectual and labor potential of Georgia and use it not for self-destruction but for the good and rebirth of the motherland."

"But the main question," Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized, "is the choice between peace and war. There cannot be peace in a country that cannot find a common language with its neighbor, and does not strive for goodneighborliness and mutually profitable relations."

The Georgian leader also made it known that the whole Commonwealth welcomed the decision of Georgia joining the CIS. "The country cannot get back on its feet without strong, involved allies," he said.

Rebel Forces Advancing, Only 16 Km from Kutaisi

AU1910104493 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Kutaisi, Georgia, Oct 19 (AFP)—Rebel forces loyal to ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia on Tuesday were only only 16 kilometers (10 miles) from this strategic western city, as government reinforcements poured in Tuesday to fight off any rebel advance.

Dzaba Ioseliani, who was put in charge of the state of emergency by President Eduard Shevardnadze and is coordinating troops to fight the Gamskahurdia loyalists, said government troops had stopped the rebels near the village of Ianeti, about 16 kilometers west of Kutaisi. Kutaisi is 180 kilometres (110 miles) northwest of Tbilisi.

The rebels were advancing after seizing on Sunday the western towns of Samtredia and Khoni, the two main towns along their drive towards Kutaisi.

Kutaisi is the main city in western Georgia and Georgia's second largest city. Its capture would effectively cut the country in two, since it lies on a strategic highway along which most imports and foodstuffs pass from the Black Sea port of Poti—which Gamsakhurdia partisans took on October 2—to the capital Tbilisi, farther east.

"Fighting and artillery exchanges took place overnight, but this morning everything is calm. We are organizing the reinforcements who arrived this night," Ioseliani said Tuesday.

Ioseliani has been mustering forces to defend Kutaisi, notably after Russia on Monday rebuffed a desperate plea for military intervention despite Shevardnadze's warning that his country was facing a "catastrophic situation."

The Georgian president decided Sunday night to put all his troop might into defending Kutaisi.

Ioseliani was mobilizing both Georgian defense ministry forces and his own paramilitary militia called the Mkhedrioni, meaning "horsemen,"—a 2,000-member volunteer force who are officially civilians. Most are veterans of the fight agaisnt Abkhazi rebels—a separate rebel battle facing Tbilisi in Georgia's western region—and are Shevardnadze's main military support outside government troops.

A mood of general mobilization took hold along the road between Tbilisi and Kutaisi late Monday and Tuesday as a caravan of trucks and cars carrying the Mkhedrioni arrived in Kutaisi along with dozens of cars carrying in more units of the Georgian national guard.

Pro-Georgian Abkaz Government Moves To Tbilisi

LD1810192693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1737 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By Georgian Information Agency for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi October 18 TASS—The pro-Georgian government of Abkhazia "which was forced to leave the territory occupied by Abkhazian separatists is temporarily moving to the capital of Georgia", the Georgian Council of Ministers decided on Monday.

The staff of the government which numbers 22 people will get an office in downtown Tbilisi and will be financed from the republican budget.

First Deputy Chairman of the pro-Georgian Government Lorik Marshania said refugees, whose number exceeds 200,000, will be the major concern.

Refugees fleeing Abkhazia will receive humanitarian aid worth 590,000 dollars from the European Community, it was announced in Brussels.

The aid will include medicines, food, tents, blankets.

Gamsakhurdia Aide Sends Message to Abkhaz Leader

LD1810191293 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1705 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Reliable sources report that Zviad Gamsakhurdia's associate, Loti Kobalia, the head of armed units, who claims to be the commander of the chief department of the National Guard of the Republic of Georgia, has sent a letter to the leader of the Gudauta group, Vladislav Ardzinba. He appealed for all possible efforts to settle peacefully and immediately the critical situation resulting from the seizure of several villages in Zugdidi and Tsalenjikha rayons on the right bank of the Inguri river by Abkhaz armed forces.

The situation is aggravated by the fact that the military, among which Armenian nationals are distinguished for particular brutality, force local inhabitants to abandon their homes and rob and kill people, the letter says.

In order to prevent further escalation of the conflict, Loti Kobalia appeals to the Abkhaz side to take urgent measures for the withdrawal of military units beyond the boundaries of the above- mentioned territories.

Russian Ships Deployed To Stop Goods Leaving Poti

LD1910114893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] A Georgian Interior Ministry troops commander, Vladimer Chikovani, told our correspondent that a group of 150 Chechen combatants has arrived in the town of Poti, which is under the control of armed units supporting Gamsakhurdia. There are also 200 combatants in Senaki. They can be identified by their green arm bands depicting the flag of the Caucasus Confederation.

Chikovani said that a bank was robbed in Poti recently and $100,000 was stolen.

Answering the correspondent's question about the aim of the Russian naval ships near Poti, Chikovani said that the ships arrived at the request of the Georgian Government to prevent illegal exports of nonferrous metals and other stolen goods to Turkey.

Chikovani cited lack of responsibility as a reason for the fall of Samtredia and Khoni. At the same time he pointed out that during their offensive, the supporters of Gamsakhurdia used Chechens to operate their tanks.

People's Front Head Volunteers To Mediate Crisis

LD1810194993 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1500 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 18 Oct— An IBERIA correspondent was told by Nodar Natadze, Georgian People's Front chairman, that he was ready to act as mediator between the sides in Georgia's internal crisis, so the civil war would end as soon as possible and new elections would be held with the participation of all political forces.

Some MPs Back CIS Membership; Others Want Supporters Shot

LD1810193393 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1705 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] At the Georgian Supreme Council building a news conference was held by a group of MPs supporting Georgia's membership of the CIS. Spokesmen of the "Democrat" and "Accord" factions, as well as the Georgian Democratic Party backed up the decision of the head of the Georgian state, Eduard Shevardnadze, on the republic joining the Commonwealth, emphasizing that taking into consideration the current situation this was a sensible, though to a certain extent a forced step.

A view glaringly contradictory to this has been expressed by the leader of the Georgian People's Front, Nodar Natadze, an MP, who, in one of his recent interviews, called for punishing through a firing squad all deputies who will vote for the "endorsement" of Georgia's membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Tbilisi Citizens Demand Dissolution of Parliament

LD1810184593 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1705 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] On 18 October, a multithousand-strong meeting was held in the Tbilisi Grand Philharmonic Hall on the initiative of the committee of the unity of Tbilisi citizens. The meeting considered a current sociopolitical situation in the republic. The participants of the meeting voiced the support of the course implemented by the head of the Georgian state.

A long speech was made by the chairman of the Georgian parliament, Eduard Shevardnadze who thoroughly analyzed critical processes occurring at the moment in the country. He emphasized that with the state facing a threat of disintegration, it was necessary that the people should consolidate.

The meeting passed a resolution which deplored "Zviadizm" as the biggest evil in the history of a Georgian state and voiced an uncompromising struggle against any manifestation of it. The document also includes an appeal for a strong suppression of antistate activities of a number of political parties and makes the power structures responsible for taking urgent measures aimed to stabilize the situation.

The resolution also demands that the head of the Georgian state should assume a mission of making state decisions of major importance, while the parliament, as a body which failed to consolidate the nation, to strengthen the defense power of the country and to ensure social security of the population should be dissolved.

The meeting voiced a unanimous support of the decision of the head of state on Georgia's joining the CIS.

Revived Guard Unlikely To Make 'Radical Breakthrough'

PM1910082193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Vitaliy Alekseyev, Kirill Petrov report: "Georgian Guard's Second Coming"]

[Text] The Georgian National Guard has been reestablished by a 14 October edict issued by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of parliament and head of state. Major General Jemal Chumburidze has been appointed its commander.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Information [subhead]

Jemal Chumburidze was born in Tbilisi 5 August 1938 into a white-collar worker's family. He graduated from the Georgian Polytechnical Institute's Bridge Construction Faculty (1962). He was promoted colonel in 1991. He was chief of the National Guard Main Directorate (January 1992-1993). He was appointed Georgian deputy defense minister in March 1993 and deputy defense minister for construction and troop billeting on 22 May 1993. Jemal Chumburidze was promoted major general 12 August 1992.

The first commander of the National Guard, which was set up by former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, was Tengiz Kitovani. Nowadays they are on different sides of the barricades. The new appointment can give only moral comfort to Kitovani. Its duties have not been clearly defined, and it must be assumed that Kitovani has been marked down for the role of Chumburidze's adviser.

So the Guard has been reestablished, with its base in Kutaisi. The guardsmen's ability to make a radical breakthrough in the course of events in the west of the republic is not being overestimated in Tbilisi, and much greater hopes are being pinned on the Russian-Georgian dialogue on military cooperation. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent was informed at the Headquarters of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus that, in accordance with the Tashkent agreements of 15 May 1992, 178 tanks and 180 armored vehicles had been handed over to Georgia. But the republic's quotas for these types of hardware were set at 220 tanks and 220 armored vehicles.

Deputy Defense Minister on Disbanding Unit

LD1810163193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] In connection with the difficult situation in western Georgia, a SAKINFORM correspondent asked Major General Jemal Chumburidze, deputy defense minister, a few questions.

To a question as to what was the reason for the guard's self-disbandment, Jemal Chumburidze answered:

In fact, the guard has not been established. At the moment, there are many various units in the government Armed Forces and we have acted haphazardly. Therefore, it is necessary that all these units unite under single command. From now on, all troops will be subordinate to the commanding staff of the Ministry of Defense, that is we will be subordinate to the structures of the Ministry of Defense. We will also abide by the commander in chief's orders.

To a question by the correspondent as to what had happened, what was impeding government troops from launching an offensive because the current situation in western Georgia had caused a sort of alarm in the city of Tbilisi, Maj. Gen. Jemal Chumburidze answered:

There is a certain defense force in the west, including internal troops, Mkhedrioni [paramilitary militia], people's volunteer corps, and our units with equipment. But actions for going over to the offensive have not been planned. I reiterate that we are a defensive force but since the events have taken such a turn it is apparent that these will be followed by adequate actions. What forces will take part in them and how we will act, you will learn very soon. We will fulfill the commands of the commander in chief.

Estonia

National Elections Held; Early Returns Available

Assembly Party Ahead in Tallinn

WS1810132993 Tallinn BNS in English 1129 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] TALLINN, Oct 18, BNS—Tentative results of Sunday's [17 October] local elections for Tallinn indicate former Prime Minister Tiit Vahi's Assembly Party's close victory ahead of the Russian Democratic Movement.

The outcome, as counted by 1000 today, was reported as follows: Assembly Party - 18 seats, Russian Democratic Movement - 17, Revel - 10, Raeklubi - 9, Centrist Party - 5 and Pro Patria - 5 seats.

The information is based on computer data of the capital's central election commission, which uses a program of the company Cornua Septimo.

According to the preliminary results, the number of Russian-speaking members in the new City Council will rise from the former council's 10 to 27.

Official election results are to be announced Wednesday, after the votes are once more counted in all districts. Officials at the central election commission didn't rule out the possibility that the Assembly Party after the second counting of votes would have to give one seat to the Russian Democrats.

The elections were conducted on the basis of the bill on local elections adopted in Estonia in spring. Under the bill the right to vote is enjoyed by the persons who have resided in the given locality for no less than 5 years. The people without citizenship (ethnic Russians as a rule) should undergo preliminary registration. The right to be elected is enjoyed only by the people with Estonian citizenship.

A total of 870,041 people have the right to vote in Estonia. 8738 candidates are contesting 3427 mandates to 253 municipal councils. [passage omitted]

Russian Party Successful

WS1810133193 Tallinn BNS in English 1129 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 18, BNS—Hanon Barabaner, one of the leaders of the Russian Democratic Movement, said the success of the Russian list of candidates in Tallinn was no surprise for him.

"We counted with 15-22 mandates," said Barabaner, who according to tentative election results was elected into the new municipal council.

He said the country's Russian Assembly had "fulfilled its task to change the unnormal situation, when half of the residents of Tallinn are not represented in local organs of power". Barabaner says the elections allowed the Russians' organizations to "show the possibility of participating in elections and also winning them".

Preliminary Returns for Tartu

WS1810154693 Tallinn BNS in English 1439 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] TARTU, Estonia, Oct 18, BNS—Preliminary election results in Estonia's second-largest town, the southern regional capital Tartu, are reported as follows: the "Tartu" alliance—19 seats, Pensioners Union—17, Pro Patria—7, National Independence Party—3, Social Democrats—1, Royalists—1, and the Centrist Party, 1 seat.

All in all 34.3 percent, or 21,936 of the 64,005 eligible voters participated in the election, a representative at the local election commission said.

Observers Satisfied With Voting

WS1810160493 Tallinn BNS in English 1439 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 18, BNS—Council of Europe observers for the local elections in Estonia expressed their satisfaction over the way how the voting had proceeded.

The observer mission in a press conference today said the election took place "in a very democratic, peaceful, honest and friendly atmosphere". Erich Prambock, a member of the mission from Austria, said the few minor incidents observed at some election offices were quite ordinary also for such democratic countries like Austria.

The six observers, in groups, visited 36 election offices in different locations, including Tallinn, Tartu and the northeastern Russian-populated towns of Narva, Kohtla-Jarve and Sillamae.

The members of the mission pointed out substantial changes in the attitudes of the Russian-speaking population of northeastern Estonia. John Morgan, a Council of Europe observer from Britain, said conversations with residents there had convinced him that the prevailing attitudes now are much more tranquil that 3-4 months ago.

Rightwing Group Wins Majority in Valga

WS1810160793 Tallinn BNS in English 1439 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 18, BNS—A right-of-center alliance of representatives of the ruling parties—the Pro Patria, the National Independence Party and the Moderates—and independent candidates won the overwhelming majority of seats in the town council of Valga.

The candidates appearing on the list "Valga Needs Changes" won 13 seats in the 21-seat council. The election program of the alliance list includes taking power from the hands of the Soviet-era nomenklatura.

The former Communists, or the Democratic Labor Party, came second with 5 seats in the council. The turnout in the election in the regional capital on the Latvian border was a little over 50 percent.

Fatherland Party Wins 27 of 64 Seats in Tallinn

WS1810160993 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1447 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tallinn, October 18—The ruling Fatherland Party lost out in local elections in Estonia's capital Tallinn becoming the last election union to win seats in the city council while Russians gathered 27 seats in the 64-member council after a modest performance by Estonian voters and high level of activity among non- citizens who made use of their first chance to have a say in local politics.

Estonian Russian Democratic Movement won the top 21.05 per cent of votes and 17 seats in the city council followed by oppositionist Coalition Party with 18.24 per cent (18 seats). Another Russian election union, Revel, won 13.32 per cent (10). Raeklubi (town council club), uniting prominent members of the society, gained 10.34 per cent of votes (9) followed by Centrist Faction (9.01 per cent & 5 seats) leaving ruling Fatherland the last to take seats in the town council (6.79 per cent & 5 seats).

The remaining nine election unions and six independent candidates were left out of the council.

The most popular individual with voters in Tallinn was Arnold Ruutel (Coalition Party), former head of the Estonian Supreme Council. Ruutel was also the top favourite in presidential elections last autumn, but failed to gather enough votes to be elected President.

Revel's representative Lembit Annus, a former member of the Soviet Union's Politburo, was the second popular person in Tallinn followed by academician Endel Lippmaa (Coalition Party) and ex- Premier Tiit Vahi (Coalition Party). Aleksei Semyonov, from the Russian Democratic Movement was the fifth popular person.

In Tallinn, 59.52 per cent of the electorate participated while the figure for the whole country was 52.61, the State Election Committee said on Monday.

The current head of the Tallinn City Council on Sunday expressed concern that the future council of Estonia's capital might be Russian-speaking, because Estonians were extremely passive at polls. Prime Minister Mart Laar told ETA he was also very worried about the non-active attitude of Estonians.

About half of Tallinn's population is Russian-speaking.

Under the local election law, any permanent resident was allowed to vote provided the person had lived in Estonia for the last five years. Only citizens could run for office.

Latvia

State Minister Comments on Talks With Russia

LD1810225493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The first day of talks between the delegations of Latvia and Russia took place on Monday in Moscow. The head of the Latvian delegation, Martins Virsis, explained that the main subject of the talks of the day had been the dates of the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia. Latvia wishes that the Russian troops leave the state by the end of this year, but Russia considers that it is unable to withdraw its Armed Forces no earlier than by the end of next year.

On Tuesday, the delegations will discuss the Russian soldiers' social security and pensions in Latvia, but the course of this Monday's talks are commented upon by Edvins Inkens, the state minister of special tasks.

[Begin Inkens recording] I think that we all still remember the recent pre-election period here, and also those psychological processes that arise from the pre-election competition itself. During that time rarely any political force is ready for compromises. Quite the contrary, everybody must appear in front of the eyes of the electors more correct and better. Therefore, (?this can be seen) like that, in this instance, the interests of Russia. It is rather clear, we are able to see in Moscow, and I do not want to say that this is only at the talks table, we also see this from those political processes that are on the whole taking place at present in Moscow. Therefore, this is the factor that has not promoted (?a compromise on the opening day at) the talks table.

There is another aspect that also influences our talks. This aspect is that we do not know, first of all, what the next [Russian] parliament will be like. Who will win in it.

At the present moment, the president of Russia can actually sign that agreement on the withdrawal of the troops that might become [indistinct word]. This period without parliament is, as it were, very favorable for a final coordination of the agreement. (?Then) the next, newly-elected parliament will only have to ratify it. So at present it cannot directly influence the course of the talks.

This necessitates a certain hurry. We should coordinate the agreement quicker in order that it could be signed. In turn, (?only from that, as a consequence of reaching an agreement) a meeting at the highest level, between the state presidents of Russia and Latvia is necessary. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Currency Change Expected To Proceed Without Problems

PM1510092793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Irina Litvinova report: "Latvia Abandons Latvian Rubles: Lats Alone Remain"]

[Text] Riga—This is the last week that Latvian rubles are being used in Latvia. However, there are no signs of any ballyhoo or mobs wanting to mop up "spare cash."

First, the population does not have much "spare cash." The government itself acknowledges that some categories of inhabitant are in a desperate position—primarily pensioners, the unemployed (according to official statistics, they already form over 5 percent) and other needy people. Second, the Bank of Latvia has provided notification that any amount of unspent Latvian rubles is to be exchanged at any time for lats, which are remaining in circulation. And since monetary reform has hitherto been carried out honorably and all promises have been fulfilled, the population believes that Latvian ruble bank notes will not disappear.

The unprepossessing Latvian rubles, which have moreover been embarrassed by a host of counterfeits, have done honest service for over a year now. Last June, when Latvia abandoned its usual Russian currency and introduced its own Latvian rubles, few people thought that they would not suffer the sorry fate of the experimental coupons in the CIS states. However, the skeptics were confounded: The tough course pursued by the Bank of Latvia stabilized first the Latvian ruble and then the full-fledged local currency—the lat. They have been in simultaneous circulation on the republic's territory for some time now, and it is time to bid the ruble farewell.

Meanwhile the lat is doing something incredible: It is already worth $1.64 at the Bank of Latvia rate of exchange. Specialists differ over how realistic the economic preconditions are for such a high rate of exchange for the lat.

The interim result of Latvian monetary reform may be of some interest to Russian citizens. In January hard currency will cease to be in simultaneous circulation in Russia alongside the ruble. The consequences of this move are now being discussed. But the discussions and consequences are already behind Latvia. Early this summer the committee on monetary reform made the following stipulation: All prices and settlements must feature only the local unit of currency What happened? Nothing supernatural. Former "hard-currency traders" have not collapsed, and the lat has benefited from the new move. There are no problems exchanging small amounts of money at exchange bureaus or large amounts at banks. The interest on the population's money in deposit accounts in hard currency was for some time considerably lower than on deposits in local currencies. But here too the situation is now being evened out.

Circulation of Ruble Suspended

WS1810133293 Tallinn BNS in English 1129 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] RIGA, Oct 18, BNS—Latvia suspends circulation of Latvian rubles October 18 to make the lats a sole legal tender in its territory.

Latvia was part of the Soviet ruble system from its occupation in 1940 up to May 1992 when a gradual return to the historic national currency, the lats, started.

The Latvian ruble was introduced May 7, 1992 as a provisional money in the transition period to the national currency, said the central bank's spokesman Edzus Vejins.

Also, the Latvian ruble helped to overcome financial problems connected with the shortage of cash Russian rubles in Latvia, Vejins said.

The Latvian ruble became the sole legal tender in Latvia after Latvia suspended circulation of Russian rubles July 20, 1992. [passage omitted]

Envoy Sees Safety in European Organizations

WS1410124693 Tallinn BNS in English 1932 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] RIGA, Oct 13, BNS—The Latvian security will become stronger as the country orients its economic interests to the European Community and its defense plans to NATO, claims MP Indulis Berzins, the Latvian envoy to the North Atlantic Assembly (NAA).

Berzins' comments followed a NAA session that focused on setting future tasks for the NATO. NAA joins parliament representatives from NATO member states with representatives of associated member states.

The Latvian delegation has an associated member status at the NAA. NATO is not ready to accept any new members at the moment, said Berzins.

During lobby conversations, three different viewpoints came up regarding East European security, Berzins noted. Some officials would admit the Baltics to NATO only if they join simultaneously with Russia.

Others suggested that East European countries should unite to create their own parallel security organization. Still others favor a gradual integration of East European countries into the NAA.

Lawmakers Increase Sales Tax to 18 Percent

WS1510133693 Tallinn BNS in English 1946 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] RIGA, Oct 14, BNS—Latvian lawmakers passed the ruling coalition's proposal Thursday [14 October] to raise the sales tax from the present 12 percent to 18 percent on all goods and services.

The one exception is essential food stuffs, which will be taxed only 10 percent.

The revision goes into effect Nov. 1. The 10 percent sales tax on food stuffs remains in effect until May 31.

Lithuania

Parties, President Discuss Foreign Policy Strategy

LD1510153093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] A meeting of nine political parties took place in the president's office in Vilnius today. Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian conservatives, who attended the meeting, stated that the president approved a proposal by the Lithuanian political parties to invest joint efforts in forming a clear and reliable strategy for Lithuania's foreign policy. This meeting signifies the beginning of cooperation.

The next meeting is to be held on 25 October.

At the meeting, principal attention was paid to the parties' proposal to give voice to Lithuania's wish to joint NATO. The participants in the meeting understand that this will be a long process of integration. The president advised that the opinion of the Seimas should be expressed on this issue. The participants in the meeting agreed with the president's view that parliament could confirm more quickly the joint [word indistinct].

Party Leaders Discuss Security, Economic Issues

LD1810141493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the parliamentary opposition Tevynes Santara, and Mecys Laurinkus, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, held a news conference at parliament at 1000 today. [passage omitted]

Vytautas Landsbergis said that in his opinion the ruling party has now admitted that the Ministry of Economic Relations was abolished too hastily and it now seems that the system of state defense is also being destroyed. There is a wish to destroy the state border defense even before it is established where the state borders are. Although the draft law presented on Thursday was criticized by parliament's law department, the draft law was accepted for debate by parliament.

The draft envisages that the border service's functions should be divided between the police and the migration service, although these are the services attending to the needs of the state border. As the national security policy has still not been worked out, it is not clear who will be in charge of the state border defense, Vytautas Landsbergis said. He said the main force in border defenses are volunteers. Attempts are being made, with the help of the press, to discredit them. It was they who set up the state's defenses since the January events. These volunteers went to defend the state without any idea of personal gain, Vytautas Landsbergis told the news conference. [passage omitted]

The presidium of the Baltic Council assembly held a meeting last weekend. The Lithuanian delegation was headed by Egidijus Bickauskas [deputy chairman of the Lithuanian parliament]. Vilius Kavaliauskas, parliamentary press spokesman, who moderated the news conference, asked Egidijus Bickauskas to comment on what additional measures can be taken by parliament to curb organized crime. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the tragic event of last week when journalist Vytas Lingys was murdered, Egidijus Bickauskas said this indicated that the press has become dangerous to criminal elements. If tomorrow's rally by journalists demonstrates their unity and their resolution to carry on fighting, the rally should be supported. However, the rally will not achieve this it becomes directed at somebody demanding something. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius answered journalists' questions. He supported Egidijus Bickauskas's opinion that there is no need to speed up the restructuring of the state border defense service until conceptual solutions are found first, and, what is more, until the executive control functions are transferred to the Interior Ministry as the draft envisages, Audrius Butkevicius said.